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Businesses report jobless aid fraud

State recently launched new benefits system, but violations noticed

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Just three weeks after Connecticut unveiled a \$60 million updated unemployment insurance benefits system, employers are noticing fraudulent claims.

Rich Siegel, president of Unemployment Tax Management Corp., a Wakefield, Massachu-

setts, business hired by employers to respond to questions about unemployment insurance claims and handle related matters, said Friday he has seen a “huge uptick in fraudulent claims” to illegally obtain money. Of 454 claims his company received from Connecticut clients for Monday through Thursday, about 167, or 37%, were fraudulent, he said.

The claims were fraudulent because they were submitted for workers who are still on the job, Siegel said. Unemployment insurance is available to workers who

lose their jobs through no fault of their own.

Before the revamped unemployment system was launched July 5, Siegel said he spotted just 1% of claims that were fraudulent.

Juliet Manalan, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Labor, said bad actors, particularly identity thieves, are testing the state’s unemployment benefits system, ReEmployCT, because it’s new. ReEmployCT is catching fraud, not causing it, she said.

Fraudulent claims are a factor in all new state unemployment

systems, Manalan said.

Siegel said fraudulent claims are not “one-off” cases of employees who lie about why they left their jobs or file claims in several states.

Instead, he said, criminal enterprises are engaging in fraud. They are probably based outside the U.S., have purchased names, Social Security numbers and other private data that were breached and are available for sale on the dark web, a part of the internet that requires special software or

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“It is possible that fraudsters, criminal enterprises saw the weaknesses in those other systems and said, ‘Connecticut is starting up. Let’s attack it.’”

— Rich Siegel, president of Unemployment Tax Management Corp.



Light-blue trailblazing marks trees that border the Mohawk Trail in Cornwall. A 375-acre forever-wild easement along the Mohawk Trail has been established in Cornwall. **DOUGLAS HOOK PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

State justice tapped for US court

Biden nominates Kahn to a third CT seat on Circuit Court of Appeals

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

President Biden on Friday nominated state Supreme Court Justice Maria A. Kahn to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

If approved by the U.S. Senate, Kahn — a former federal prosecutor — will be the third Connecticut judge on the federal appeals court in New York, which has influence over contracts, securities, anti-trust matters and other questions of commercial law. The court, a few blocks above Wall Street, takes federal appeals from New York, Connecticut and Vermont.

It was assumed for decades that Connecticut had two seats on the court. But in a surprise announcement earlier this year, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said his research convinced him that Connecticut actually is entitled to three seats, and he persuaded his good friend and fellow Democrat, U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York to give one of the jealously guarded patronage appointments. By tradition, a state’s U.S. Senators recommend federal judicial appointments to the White House.

“For Connecticut not to have a third seat would be absolutely unprecedented,” Blumenthal said at the time. “We have reconstructed the history here. I regard it as a major achievement to sort of have dug into the intricacies of the 2nd Circuit judicial selection system. This seat has a history that would boggle your mind.”

“We discussed it with Sen.

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East Hartford has plans for housing

The state on Friday authorized nearly \$260,000 to help East Hartford demolish the 63-year-old former McCartin School for a single-family housing development.

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‘FOREVER WILD’

State OKs \$10M to preserve open space in effort to combat climate change

By Stephen Underwood
Hartford Courant

Connecticut’s climate has warmed two to three degrees in the last century, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In response, the state is ramping up measures to increase its open space to 673,210 acres in an effort to ease the effect climate change will have in the next several decades.

On Friday, the State Bond Commission approved an additional \$10 million to provide supplemental funding for the municipal open space grant-in-aid program. The grants are authorized under the state’s Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program, which is administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

“Open space is vital to environmental

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In the town of Cornwall, a 375-acre forever-wild easement along the Mohawk Trail has been established. It will be overseen and maintained by the Northeast Wilderness Trust.

Deadly deluge hits hard in Kentucky



Kenneth Neace examines his home Friday after it was destroyed by flooding in Breathitt County, Kentucky. **AUSTIN ANTHONY/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

At least 16 killed as rain, floods pound eastern Appalachia

By Dylan Lovan, Bruce Schreiner and Matthew Brown
Associated Press

JACKSON, Ky. — Trapped homeowners swam to safety and others were rescued by boat as record flash flooding killed at least 16 people in Kentucky and swamped entire Appalachian towns, prompting a frenzied search for survivors Friday through some of the poorest communities in America.

Heavy rain continued to pound parts of the region and more rain was forecast for early next week. Authorities warned the death toll would likely grow sharply and some waterways were not expected to crest until Saturday.

It’s the latest in a string of catastrophic deluges that have hammered parts of the nation this summer, including St. Louis earlier this week and again Friday. Scientists warn climate change is making weather disasters more common.

Water poured down hillsides and into Appalachian valleys and

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authorization to access.

Siegel said he does not believe the latest burst of fraud is related to the pandemic but to the start of the new state benefits system that is similar to those that operate in Maine and Mississippi.

“It is possible that fraudsters, criminal enterprises saw the weaknesses in those other systems and said, ‘Connecticut is starting up. Let’s attack it,’” he said.

In April 2021, state labor officials reported that of 1.4 million applications for unemployment benefits received since the start of the pandemic the previous year, about 100,000 were identified as fraudulent. Most involved identity theft and false information.

Manalan said 115,000 claims were held and \$3 billion was protected from improper claims.

It’s too early to know how successfully ReEmployCT has blocked fraudulent claims, she said. A claim flagged as improper may not be fraud, and those who are accused may appeal in a process that takes months.

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association posted on its website warnings about unemployment insurance fraud. It reminded employers they are the first line of defense against fraud by notifying state labor officials about claims that are valid or not.

Gov. Ned Lamont and Labor Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo unveiled the revamped unemployment benefits system July 6 following a six-year makeover of the outdated computer program that strained under the volume of unemployment claims during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic when businesses where shut to contain the virus.

At the peak of the employment crisis in early May 2020, the Department of Labor worked through about 390,000 weekly unemployment insurance claims, or nearly one-fifth of Connecticut’s labor force.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.



Homes damaged by flooding from Troublesome Creek in Breathitt County, Ky., are seen on Friday. The death toll in the flash floods that hit Kentucky this week rose to 16 on Friday and was expected to increase as rescue efforts continued in the eastern region. **AUSTIN ANTHONY/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Flooding

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hollows where it swelled creeks and streams coursing through small towns. The torrent engulfed homes and businesses and trashed vehicles. Mudslides marooned some people on steep slopes.

Rescue teams backed by the National Guard used helicopters and boats to search for the missing but some areas remained inaccessible. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said at least two children were among the victims and that the death toll was “going to get a lot higher.” It could take weeks to account for all victims, he said.

Patricia Colombo, 63, of Hazard, Kentucky, got stranded after her car stalled in floodwaters on a state highway. Colombo began to panic when water started rushing in. Her phone was dead, but she saw a helicopter overhead and waved it down. The helicopter crew radioed a team on the ground that pulled her safely from her car.

Colombo stayed the night at her fiancé’s home in Jackson and they took turns sleeping, repeat-

edly checking the water with flashlights to see if it was rising. Colombo lost her car but said others who were struggling prior to the floods had it worse.

“Many of these people cannot recover out here. They have homes that are half underwater, they’ve lost everything,” she said.

At least 33,000 utility customers were without power. The flooding extended into western Virginia and southern West Virginia, across a region where poverty is endemic.

“There are hundreds of families that have lost everything,” Beshear said. “And many of these families didn’t have much to begin with. And so it hurts even more. But we’re going to be there for them.”

Extreme rain events have become more common as climate change bakes the planet and alters weather patterns, according to scientists. That’s a growing challenge for officials during disasters, because models used to predict storm impacts are in part based on past events and can’t keep up with increasingly devastating flash floods, hurricanes and heat waves.

“This is what climate change looks like,” meteorologist and

Weather Underground founder Jeff Masters said of flooding in Appalachia and the Midwest. “These extreme rainfall events are the type you would expect to see in a warming world.”

A day before the floods hit Appalachia, the National Weather Service had said Wednesday that there was a “slight to moderate risk of flash flooding” across the region on Thursday.

The deluge came two days after record rains around St. Louis dropped more than 12 inches and killed at least two people. Last month, heavy rain on mountain snow in Yellowstone National Park triggered historic flooding and the evacuation of more than 10,000 people. In both instances, the rain flooding far exceeded what forecasters predicted.

The floodwaters raging through Appalachia were so swift that some people trapped in their homes couldn’t be immediately reached, said Floyd County Judge-Executive Robbie Williams.

Just to the west in hard-hit Perry County, authorities said some people remained unaccounted for and almost everyone

in the area had suffered some sort of damage.

“We’ve still got a lot of searching to do,” said Jerry Stacy, the emergency management director in Perry County.

More than 290 people have sought shelter, Beshear said.

President Joe Biden called to express support for what will be a lengthy recovery effort, Beshear said, predicting it will take more than a year to fully rebuild.

Biden also declared a federal disaster to direct relief money to more than a dozen Kentucky counties, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency appointed an officer to coordinate the recovery.

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell said the agency would bring whatever resources were necessary to support search and recovery efforts.

Gov. Jim Justice declared a state of emergency for six counties in West Virginia where the flooding downed trees, power outages and blocked roads. Gov. Glenn Youngkin also made an emergency declaration, enabling Virginia to mobilize resources across the flooded southwest of the state.

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LOTTERY
Friday, July 29

PLAY3 DAY 8 1 4 WB: 1
PLAY4 DAY 8 6 9 5 WB: 6

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

THURSDAY’S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT 2 0 1 WB: 9
PLAY4 NIGHT 0 5 3 2 WB: 6
CASH 5 2 5 17 22 25
LUCKY FOR LIFE 5 15 20 37 46 LB: 9
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Tonight’s est. Powerball jackpot: \$170 million

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Land

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protection and a bright economic future for our state,” Gov. Ned Lamont said in a press release. “This program is an important component of preserving some of our state’s best and most beautiful land, and by partnering with our municipalities and nonprofits we can ensure that these valuable resources are preserved in perpetuity for generations to come.”

Approximately 500,000 acres — or around 781 square miles — of land in Connecticut is designated as state or local open space protected wildlife areas, according to the DEEP. That number is approximately two-thirds of the way toward the state’s goal of having 673,210 acres designated as open space.

The program is intended to protect wildlife habitats, offer recreational opportunities and serve as a buffer and adaptation to climate change. Recipient projects are required to supplement the state funding with matching funds or other grants, and the land being purchased must be protected by a conservation and public-recreation easement that will ensure the property is forever protected for public use and enjoyment.

“Ten million dollars is a great win, but the truth is we’re going to need a lot more for the state to fully meet its goal,” said Amy Paterson, executive director of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. “We have to significantly ramp up our investments in land conservation to make a profound impact on the state’s climate crisis.”

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, public lands can sequester carbon and make ecosystems and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Ecosystems such as forests, grasslands and wetlands are natural and efficient carbon sinks, capturing and storing carbon in roots, plants and soils.

“Nature-based climate solutions are essential as one of the multi-pronged efforts to combat climate change,” Paterson said. “Conserving lands helps to defend against flooding and erosion since forests act as natural filters. Trees also



The Cornwall Conservation Trust enrolled 375 acres of its forested preserves in the Wildlands Partnership — an initiative of the Northeast Wilderness Trust. DOUGLAS HOOK/HARTFORD COURANT

help to purify the air and reduce pollution. This makes our communities safer.”

But it’s not just the state’s robust park system helping to preserve open space. Local land trusts play a huge role in helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.

“We have 130 land trusts in the state, which have collectively conserved over 204,000 acres,” Paterson said. “There’s almost one in every region of the state with most towns having one as well. We’re in the top three states in the country with the most land trusts.”

In the northwest corner of the state, the Cornwall Conservation Trust enrolled 375 acres of its forested preserves in the Wildlands Partnership — an initiative of the Northeast Wilderness Trust.

The NWT engages local land trusts across the Northeast in wilderness conservation and operates in six states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

“This land will now be permanently forever wild,” said Sophi Veltrop, NWT’s outreach manager. “The land will not be logged or harvested, and no motorized or mechanized vehicles like cars or bicycles will be allowed. Only foot traffic will be permitted for people to enjoy the land.”

The recently added forever-wild easement includes the 200-acre Greyledge Preserve, 100-acre Nancy Nauts Dobbs Preserve and the 75-acre Red Mountain Preserve. The protections permit those properties to evolve through

natural processes without intensive human management. Invasive pest and plant management will still be practiced along with some basic upkeep.

The 375 acres in Cornwall is the second forever-wild designated property in Connecticut through the NWT. In 2012, Alison Orr-Andrawes donated 85 acres of land in Falls Village to the Wilderness Trust, protecting a mix of forest habitats including a mountain stream, rocky outcrops, quiet glades and majestic oak and hemlock stands.

Veltrop said the hope for these forever-wild designated areas is that they will eventually turn into old-growth forests, which are usually denoted as being over 120 years of age. Currently, Connecticut

harbors around just 675 acres of standing old-growth forest in 25 sites across 13 towns with the majority in the northwest corner of the state.

“Open-land conservation is critical in this day of age,” Veltrop said. “We have seen a great rebounding of forest land since the late 1800s when the majority of the state was clear cut. “But the story isn’t over. Only about 1% of forests are old growth in the Northeast. So we really need to restore that part of the landscape back to our open space. We will continue to work hard to ensure more land is forever wild.”

Stephen Underwood can be reached at sunderwood@courant.com.

Kahn

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Schumer, and we had very gracious and amicable conversations and we sorted it out.”

On Friday, Blumenthal, who recommended Kahn to the White House, called her “one of the most impressive and inspiring jurists to be nominated to this supremely important appellate court.”

“She has seen American justice system through the eyes of an immigrant with keen appreciation for fairness and the rule of law found uniquely in America,” he said. “ And she has served our own state bench as a steadfast advocate for justice and accountability.”

Kahn will fill, if confirmed, a seat with unusual lineage now held by Judge Jose A. Cabranes, who has decided to assume semi-retired status as a senior judge.

Cabranes was born in Puerto Rico; raised and educated in New York; attended college and graduate school in New York, New Haven and London; and was employed, among other places, in New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., before moving to New Haven, where he was general



Justice Maria Kahn, nominated by President Joe Biden to the U.S. Circuit Court, listens to argument at the state Supreme Court in 2019. At the lectern is Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Robert Scheinblum. To Kahn’s left is Justice Gregory D’Auria. BRIANA A. POUNDS/AP

counsel to Yale University. In 1979, on the recommendation of former U.S. Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, a

Connecticut Democrat, Cabranes was appointed a U.S. District Court judge in Connecticut, the

first Puerto Rican appointed to a federal district court in the country.

He was elevated to the court of appeals in 1994 — on the recommendation of then U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a New York Democrat. Moynihan joked at the time that he was repatriating Cabranes to New York. But Carbranes is listed on court records as a Connecticut judge — the eighth judge to be appointed to a seat that, since it was created in 1887, had been filled exclusively by New Yorkers. Cabranes lives in Connecticut.

If confirmed, Kahn would join Connecticut judges William Nardini and Sarah Merriam on the appeals court.

Kahn was appointed to the state Supreme Court by former Gov. Dannel P. Malloy in 2017. She was appointed to the state Appellate earlier that year and to the Superior Court in 2006. Before becoming a judge, she was an assistant U.S. Attorney in New Haven, where she was involved in criminal and civil litigation.

She was born in Angola, Africa, to parents of Portuguese origin and emigrated to the U.S. at age 10. She obtained an undergraduate degree from New York University in 1986 and a law degree from Fordham University School of Law in 1989.

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Sides trade blame in prison attack

Dozens of Ukrainian POWs reported to be dead, hurt in assault

By Susie Blann
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine accused each other Friday of shelling a prison in a separatist region of eastern Ukraine, an attack that reportedly killed dozens of Ukrainian prisoners of war captured after the fall of Mariupol, the city where troops famously held out against a monthslong Russian siege.

Both sides said the assault was premeditated with the aim of covering up atrocities.

Russia claimed that Ukraine's military used U.S.-supplied rocket launchers to strike the prison in Olenivka, a settlement controlled by the Moscow-backed Donetsk People's Republic. Separatist authorities and Russian officials said the attack killed 53 Ukrainian POWs and wounded another 75.

Moscow opened a probe into the attack, sending a team to the site from Russia's Investigative Committee, the country's main criminal investigation agency. The state RIA Novosti agency reported that fragments of U.S.-supplied precision High Mobility Artillery Rocket System rockets were found at the site.

The Ukrainian military denied making any rocket or artillery strikes in Olenivka, and it accused the Russians of shelling the prison to cover up the alleged torture and execution of Ukrainians there.

An adviser to Ukrainian



Fire engulfs a wheat field after Russian shelling Friday in the Kharkiv region of northeastern Ukraine. EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the shelling as "a deliberate, cynical, calculated mass murder of Ukrainian prisoners."

Neither claim could be independently verified.

Video shot by The Associated Press showed charred, twisted bed frames in the wrecked barracks, as well as burned bodies and metal sheets hanging from the destroyed roof. The footage also included bodies lined up on the ground next to a barbed-wire fence and an array of what was claimed to be metal rocket fragments on a wooden bench.

Denis Pushilin, leader of

the internationally unrecognized Donetsk republic, said the prison held 193 inmates. He did not specify how many were Ukrainian POWs.

The deputy commander of the Donetsk separatist forces, Eduard Basurin, suggested that Ukraine decided to strike the prison to prevent captives from revealing key military information.

Ukraine "knew exactly where they were being held and in what place," he said. "After the Ukrainian prisoners of war began to talk about the crimes they committed, and orders they

received from Kyiv, a decision was made by the political leadership of Ukraine: carry out a strike here."

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak called for a "strict investigation" into the attack and urged the United Nations and other international organizations to condemn it. He said the Russians had transferred some Ukrainian prisoners to the barracks just a few days before the strike, suggesting that it was planned.

"The purpose — to discredit Ukraine in front of our partners and disrupt weapons supply," he

tweeted.

Ukrainian officials alleged that Russia's Wagner Group, mercenaries Russia has used in other armed conflicts and reportedly elsewhere in Ukraine, carried out the assault.

Ukraine's security agencies issued a statement citing evidence that Russia was responsible, including the transfer of prisoners, analysis of injuries and the blast wave, intercepted phone conversations and the absence of shelling at the site.

"All this leaves no doubt: The explosion in Olenivka was a Russian terrorist

act and a gross violation of international agreements," the statement said.

A Russian Defense Ministry spokesperson, Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, described the strike as a "bloody provocation" aimed at discouraging Ukrainian soldiers from surrendering. He, too, claimed that U.S.-supplied HIMARS rockets were used, and said eight guards were among the wounded.

Ukrainian forces are fighting to hold on to the remaining territory under their control in Donetsk. Together with the neighboring Luhansk province, they make up Ukraine's mostly Russian-speaking industrial Donbas region.

For several months, Moscow has focused on trying to seize parts of the Donbas not already held by the separatists.

Holding POWs in an area with active fighting appeared to defy the Geneva Convention, which requires that prisoners be evacuated as soon as possible after capture to camps away from combat zones.

More than 2,400 soldiers from the Azov Regiment of the Ukrainian national guard and other military units gave up their fight in Mariupol and surrendered under orders from Ukraine's military in May.

Scores of Ukrainian soldiers have been taken to prisons in Russian-controlled areas. Some have returned to Ukraine as part of prisoner exchanges with Russia, but the families of other POWs have no idea whether their loved ones are still alive, or if they will ever come home.

House passes bill to ban semi-automatic firearms

Revived push likely to stall in the Senate amid GOP resistance

By Lisa Mascaro and Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House passed legislation Friday to revive a ban on semi-automatic guns, the first vote of its kind in years and a direct response to the firearms often used in the crush of mass shootings ripping through communities nationwide.

Once banned in the U.S., the high-powered firearms are now widely blamed as the weapon of choice among young men responsible for many of the most devastating mass shootings. But Congress allowed the restrictions first put in place in 1994 on the manufacture and sales of the weapons to expire a decade later, unable to muster the political support to counter the powerful gun lobby and reinstate the weapons ban.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi pushed the vote toward passage in the Democratic-run House, saying the earlier ban "saved lives."

The House legislation is shunned by Republicans, who dismissed it as an elec-

tion-year strategy by Democrats. Almost all Republicans voted against the bill, which passed 217-213. It will likely stall in the 50-50 Senate.

The bill comes at a time of intensifying concerns about gun violence and shootings — the supermarket shooting in Buffalo, New York; massacre of school children in Uvalde, Texas; and the July Fourth shootings of revelers in Highland Park, Illinois.

Voters seem to be taking such election-year votes seriously as Congress splits along party lines and lawmakers are forced to go on the record with their views. A recent vote to protect same-sex marriages from potential Supreme Court legal challenges won bipartisan support.

President Joe Biden, who was instrumental in helping secure the first semi-automatic weapons ban as a senator in 1994, encouraged passage, promising to sign the bill if it reached his desk.

The Biden administration said for 10 years while the ban was in place, mass shootings declined. "When the ban expired in 2004, mass shootings tripled," the statement said.

Republicans stood against limits on ownership of the high-powered firearms during an at times emotional

debate ahead of voting.

"It's a gun grab, pure and simple," Rep. Guy Reschenthaler, R-Pa., said.

Rep. Andrew Clyde, R-Ga., agreed. "An armed America is a safe and free America," Clyde said.

Democrats argued that the ban on the weapons makes sense, portraying Republicans as extreme and out of step with Americans.

Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., said the weapons ban is not about taking away Americans' Second Amendment rights but ensuring that children also have the right "to not get shot in school."

Pelosi displayed a poster of a gun company's advertisement for children's weapons, smaller versions that resemble the popular AR-15 rifles and are marketed with cartoon-like characters. "Disgusting," she said.

In one exchange, two Ohio lawmakers squared off.

"Your freedom stops where mine begins, and that of my constituents begins," Democratic Rep. Marcy Kaptur told Republican Rep. Jim Jordan. "Schools, shopping malls, grocery stores, Independence Day parades shouldn't be scenes of mass carnage and bloodshed."

Jordan replied by invit-



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi updates the media Friday as Democrats push ahead to bring a bill banning assault weapons for a vote. The House bill passed 217-213. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

ing her to his congressional district to debate him on the Second Amendment, saying he believed most of his constituents "probably agree with me and agree with the United States Constitution."

The bill would make it unlawful to import, sell or manufacture a long list of semi-automatic weapons.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., said it exempts those already in possession.

Reps. Chris Jacobs of New York and Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania were the

only Republicans to vote for the measure. Democratic lawmakers voting no were Reps. Kurt Schrader of Oregon, Henry Cuellar of Texas, Jared Golden of Maine, Ron Kind of Wisconsin and Vicente Gonzalez of Texas.

For nearly two decades, since the previous ban expired, Democrats had been reluctant to revisit the issue and confront the gun lobby. But voter opinions appear to be shifting and Democrats dared to act before the fall election. The outcome will provide information for voters on where the candi-

dates stand on the issue.

Pelosi said the House will revisit a broader package of public safety bills in August when lawmakers are expected to return briefly to Washington to handle other remaining legislation, including Biden's priority inflation-fighting package of health care and climate change strategies making its way in the Senate.

Congress passed a modest gun violence prevention package last month in the aftermath of the shooting of 19 school children and two teachers in Uvalde.

Pharma firm, states cut deal over marketing, safety of generic opioids

By Mark Scolforo
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A former opioid manufacturer has agreed in principle to pay up to \$2.4 billion in a deal with a dozen states over its marketing and product safety practices, state attorneys general announced Friday.

The company, Allergan, is now part of AbbVie but sold its generics division Actavis, including its opioid products, to Teva Pharmaceuti-

cals six years ago. Under the settlement, payments will be made to state and local governments, Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro said.

The agreement means pharma companies have consented to pay more than \$40 billion to settle claims regarding opioid manufacturers and distributors, The Associated Press has found.

The agreement came days after a similar, \$4.3 billion agreement was reached with Teva Pharmaceuticals.

Shapiro said the settlement involved claims that Allergan, which produced Norco and Kadian brand generic opioids, downplayed the risk of addiction in marketing and did not act sufficiently to prevent the drugs from being improperly diverted.

"No amount of money will bring back the lives we lost, but today's agreement will help ensure we can fund the programs Pennsylvania counties need for our communities to recover

from this crisis," Shapiro said in a statement.

Negotiations with Allergan and Teva continue over their business practices and transparency, Shapiro's office said.

It's a national agreement that involves California, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Other states will be able to sign on, Shapiro spokeswoman Jacklin Rhoads said. The opioid addiction and

overdose epidemic has been linked to more than 500,000 deaths in the U.S. over the last two decades.

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein said Friday that over 2020, nine people in his state died daily from overdoses.

"There is no amount of money that could ever repair that kind of loss, but there is hope in recovery — and thanks to our ongoing work to hold these drug companies accountable, people across this state are getting

the treatment and support they need to get healthy," Stein said.

Drugmaker Johnson & Johnson finalized a \$5 billion settlement earlier this year. National drug distribution firms AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson finalized one worth \$21 billion. OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma is trying to persuade a court to let it move ahead with a deal that could include up to \$6 billion from members of the Sackler family.

WORLD & NATION

Cutting trees in order to save trees

Preservation plan for Yosemite forest calls for chain saws

By Thomas Fuller and Livia Albeck-Ripka
The New York Times

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — The towering trees of Yosemite National Park have long held a treasured place in the American psyche, whether the ancient and majestic sequoias, the ponderosa pines with their snake-patterned bark, or the acorn-laden black oaks, the lifeblood of many Native American cultures.

It was with this legacy in mind that two top Yosemite park officials walked last week through a collection of tree stumps and explained to a visitor why they ordered chain-saw-wielding crews to fell hundreds of trees.

As she trudged past the remnant of a felled incense cedar, Cicely Muldoon, the superintendent of the park, acknowledged that the notion of cutting trees in Yosemite could be hard to explain to the public. “It hurts people’s hearts,” she said. “But we have to use every tool at our disposal to save the forests and to save the park and to restore a healthy ecosystem and to keep people safe.”

With more than 140 million trees killed in California by drought and plagues of beetles over the past decade — 2.4 million of them in Yosemite alone — forestry experts describe the state’s forests as wounded and extremely vulnerable. Now, as the state suffers another severe drought, Yosemite seems perennially under siege by fire and smoke.

In just the past month, the Oak Fire and the Washburn Fire have raged near and in the park, prompting evacuations, closing entrances and threatening the largest stands of sequoias, including the prized Mariposa Grove.

Muldoon says that more aggressive steps need to be



Sprinklers surround giant sequoia trees on July 19 in Mariposa Grove in California’s Yosemite National Park. Experts say it’s time to cut and burn wildfire-threatened forests protectively, but a lawsuit is standing in the way. **NIC COURY/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

taken than before to make the forests of Yosemite more resilient. But she and the park’s management will first have to prevail in court.

A judge this month temporarily halted the park’s biomass removal efforts, as the tree cutting was euphemistically known, in response to a lawsuit filed by an environmental group based in Berkeley, California, that argues that the park did not properly review the impacts. The thinning project covers less than 1% of Yosemite’s forests.

Whether or not the lawsuit proves successful, it is resonating well outside of the park’s boundaries by raising larger questions about how to manage forests in the age of climate change.

Increasingly, leading forestry experts are propounding a view dissonant to a public accustomed to the idea of preserving the country’s wild lands: Sometimes you have to cut trees to save

forests, they say.

In this year’s budget, Congress designated nearly \$6 billion toward wildland fire management programs, adding to the \$5 billion earmarked for hazardous fuels reduction and other fire-related programs in the infrastructure law signed last year. Last month, lawmakers introduced the Save Our Sequoias Act, which would expedite environmental reviews required for thinning projects. Though the bill is bipartisan, it has drawn opposition from a coalition of environmental groups.

About a century ago, the National Park Service, which manages Yosemite, effectively made a promise to the American people that it would keep valued places looking “more or less like they always did,” said Nate Stephenson, a scientist emeritus in forest ecology for the United States

Geological Survey. The act of Congress that established the National Park Service in 1916 called on parks to remain “unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

But, Stephenson added, “in this era of rapid and intense environmental changes, that promise is falling apart.”

Central to the thinking of scientists looking for ways to protect forests is research showing that the “natural state” of America’s wildlands was for millennia influenced by humankind.

In the iconic Yosemite Valley, with its glacier-carved granite walls, vertiginous waterfalls and flowering meadows, Garrett Dickman, a forest ecologist at the park, is leading an effort to restore the area to what it looked like more than a century ago, when it was sculpted by native burn-ing practices.

Dickman uses some of

the earliest photographs and paintings of the valley to guide him in deciding whether trees need to be felled.

Live trees that are thicker than 20 inches are never felled, Dickman said.

Along the road that links the community of Wawona to the southern entrance of the park, crews have cleared 9,156 tons of trees and brush. Dickman calculates that of the approximately 350 truckloads that carried the logs and brush, only half a dozen were sent to a sawmill. The rest went to power plants that burn wood to make electricity.

“We’re getting \$60 for 25 tons of material,” Dickman said. “But it cost us \$1,200 to \$1,400 in trucking for each load.”

The lawsuit against the park seeks specifically to stop the majority of the tree cutting and thinning. It was brought by the Earth Island Institute, a nonprofit orga-

nization based in Berkeley that has sued to stop other tree cutting projects. The lawsuit alleges that the park’s management did not follow review procedures laid out by the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act.

Chad Hanson, the director and principal ecologist for the John Muir Project, a subsidiary of the Earth Island Institute, said in an interview that the National Park Service is not being truthful about the tree removal, adding that he was among more than 200 experts who had signed a letter to President Joe Biden and Congress expressing concern that commercial logging could be “conducted under the guise of ‘thinning.’”

Most experts involved in the debate say it is not a question of whether forest thinning should be allowed, but how much needs to be done.

Hanson, who is well known among conservationists and loggers for the frequency of his lawsuits, takes a more conservative view.

One of his main arguments is that a heavily thinned forest is more vulnerable to fire, not less, because the cooling shade of the canopy is reduced, as is the windbreak. Other experts say that while cutting down trees can in theory create drier, windier conditions, forests in the West are already very dry for much of the fire season. They also say that even if wind speeds do increase, it is rarely enough to overcome the benefits of having reduced the amount of vegetation that can burn.

Hanson agrees that within 100 feet of homes, selectively thinning seedlings and saplings, and even removing lower limbs on mature trees, is essential to create “defensible space.” But he argues that instead of lopping down large trees, forest managers should allow more wildfires to progress naturally.



Wisconsin Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said, “if election integrity means anything, it means we all have to follow the law — Republicans and Democrats alike.” **SCOTT BAUER/AP**

Bogus ballot requests latest issue in Wisconsin elections

By Todd Richmond
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Harry Wait was so determined to show Wisconsin’s election system is vulnerable to fraud that he logged onto the state website, requested an absentee ballot in the state Assembly speaker’s name and had it delivered to himself. Then he ran to a sheriff to tell him that he had committed fraud.

Now Wait faces the possibility of criminal charges in a strange new chapter in a chaotic, seemingly endless fight over election administration in the key battleground state.

The fight began after Joe Biden won the state in 2020, defeating former President Donald Trump by nearly 21,000 votes. Trump has refused to accept the loss, insisting the election was marred by fraud. Multiple reviews and court decisions have upheld Biden’s victory, but Trump’s supporters have spent the months since promoting his baseless claims that Biden somehow stole the election.

Republican state Rep. Tim Ramthun has centered his gubernatorial campaign

around decertifying Biden’s win in the state. GOP legislators passed sweeping election law changes earlier this year only to see Democratic Gov. Tony Evers veto the package. The conservative-controlled state Supreme Court in July outlawed absentee ballot drop boxes.

And under pressure from Trump, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos launched an investigation into voter fraud last summer that has cost taxpayers more than \$1 million but turned up nothing.

Enter Wait. He’s the president of the Racine-based group HOT Government, which has alleged fraud in the 2020 election. He told The Associated Press that he visited the state’s election website and ordered what he says were 10 absentee ballots in the names of other people, including Vos and Racine Mayor Cory Mason, and had them delivered to his own address.

He quickly contacted Racine County Sheriff Christopher Schmalig and told him all about it, saying he had proven the state’s system is vulnerable

to fraud.

Vos said what Wait did amounts to voter fraud.

“His actions are sad,” Vos said. “If election integrity means anything, it means we all have to follow the law — Republicans and Democrats alike.”

The state Election Commission, made up of three Democrats and three Republicans, held an emergency meeting Thursday night to address Wait’s activities.

Administrator Meagan Wolfe told commissioners that the website is no more vulnerable to fraud than a traditional mail request for an absentee ballot. She also stressed that the state’s voter registration database would flag anyone who tried to vote using another person’s absentee ballot. The commissioners voted to discuss referring charges to prosecutors at a future meeting, perhaps as early as next week.

“People who think it’s cute to commit a crime to undermine elections, that needs to be stopped and it needs to be stopped now,” Democratic commissioner Ann Jacobs said during the meeting.

Blinken urges Russia to take swap deal for Griner, Whelan

By Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke by phone to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday in the highest-level known contact between the two sides since Russia invaded Ukraine, with Blinken urging Russia to accept a deal to win the release of American detainees Brittney Griner and Paul Whelan.

Russian officials gave no public hint whether Blinken had made any headway, only issuing a chiding statement afterward urging the U.S. to pursue the Americans’ freedom through “quiet diplomacy, without releases of speculative information.”

U.S. officials have in recent days publicized their efforts to get back Griner, a WNBA star, and Whelan, a corporate security executive, whose cases have drawn widespread national attention. While the direct outreach to Russian officials allows the Biden administration to show it is going all out to try to free the two U.S. citizens, it also risks undermining a core U.S. message to allies abroad: that isolating Russia diplomatically and economically will ultimately force Russia to pull its troops from Ukraine.

Blinken did not provide details of Lavrov’s response to what he had previously called a “substantial proposal” for Russia to release Whelan and Griner. Blinken had publicly requested the call and revealed the existence of the offer to Russia. People familiar with the offer say the U.S. wants to swap Whelan and Griner for convicted Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

Blinken described the call as “a frank and direct conversation” centered primarily on the detained Americans.



Secretary of State Antony Blinken described Friday’s phone call as “frank.” **TOM BRENNER/POOL**

“I urged Foreign Minister Lavrov to move forward with that proposal,” he said. “I can’t give you an assessment of whether that is any more or less likely.”

Blinken also said he had pressed Lavrov on the importance of Russia following through on an agreement to allow Ukrainian grain shipments to leave the Black Sea and warned him of consequences should Moscow move ahead with suspected plans to annex portions of eastern and southern Ukraine.

Blinken said he told Lavrov that the world will “never recognize” any annexation of Ukrainian territory, which he said would “result in significant additional costs for Russia.” He declined to comment on how Lavrov replied to his messages.

“I don’t want to characterize any of Foreign Minister Lavrov’s responses,” Blinken said.

In its statement afterward, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Lavrov “strongly suggested” to Blinken “returning to a professional diplomacy in the mode of quiet dialogue” on any efforts at American detainees’ release.

Lavrov also repeated Russia’s vows to keep fighting until it has achieved its aims in Ukraine, renewed complaints that U.S. and

NATO support to Ukraine was prolonging the conflict, and accused the U.S. of not yet keeping up its end of agreements on the grain shipments from Ukraine, the Foreign Ministry said.

Blinken’s comments earlier this week marked the first time the U.S. government publicly revealed any concrete action it has taken to secure Griner’s release.

The two-time Olympic gold medalist and player for the WNBA’s Phoenix Mercury was arrested at a Moscow airport in mid-February when inspectors found vape cartridges containing cannabis oil in her luggage.

Griner’s arrest came at a time of heightened tensions between Moscow and Washington ahead of Russia sending troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24.

She pleaded guilty but said she had no criminal intent in bringing the cartridges to Russia and packed in haste for her return to play in a Russian basketball league during the WNBA’s offseason. She faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted of transporting drugs.

The Biden administration has faced political pressure to free Griner and other Americans whom the U.S. has declared to be “wrongfully detained” — a designation sharply rejected by Russian officials.

Whelan, a corporate security executive from Michigan, was sentenced to 16 years in prison on espionage charges in 2020. He and his family have vigorously asserted his innocence. The U.S. government has denounced the charges as false.

Russia has for years expressed interest in the release of Bout, a Russian arms dealer once labeled the “Merchant of Death.” He was sentenced to 25 years in prison in 2012 on charges that he schemed to illegally sell millions of dollars in weapons.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Jan. 6 panel to provide 20 of its transcripts to Justice Department

From news services

WASHINGTON — The House Jan. 6 committee will share 20 of its interview transcripts with the Justice Department as federal prosecutors have been increasingly focused on efforts by former President Donald Trump and his allies to overturn the results of the election.

A committee aide said that the panel will share the 20 transcripts but has “no plans to share additional transcripts at this time.” The person, who requested anonymity to discuss the confidential transaction, would not say which interviews the committee is sharing.

The information sharing comes after the committee had rejected a Justice Department request for transcripts in May. At the time, the committee’s chairman, Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, had said it was “premature” for the committee to share its work because the panel’s probe is ongoing.

Since then, the panel has been negotiating an agreement over the documents as the department has stepped up its probes. Several senior aides to former Vice President Mike Pence have appeared before a federal grand jury and prosecutors have seized records from a group of Republicans who served as fake electors in battleground states won by President Joe Biden. Trump and his allies pushed officials in those states to replace Biden’s duly selected electors with ones who supported him as they advanced claims that his victory had been stolen.

It remains unclear whether prosecutors might seek to bring criminal charges against Trump, who denies any wrongdoing.

Attorney General Merrick Garland, facing mounting pressure from congressional Democrats to bring charges against the former president, has said prosecutors will hold anyone accountable — no matter their position — if they broke the law.

The committee has not said if it plans to eventually share all of its transcripts with the Justice Department or the public. The Jan. 6 panel has conducted more than 1,000 interviews, but not all of those were formally transcribed.

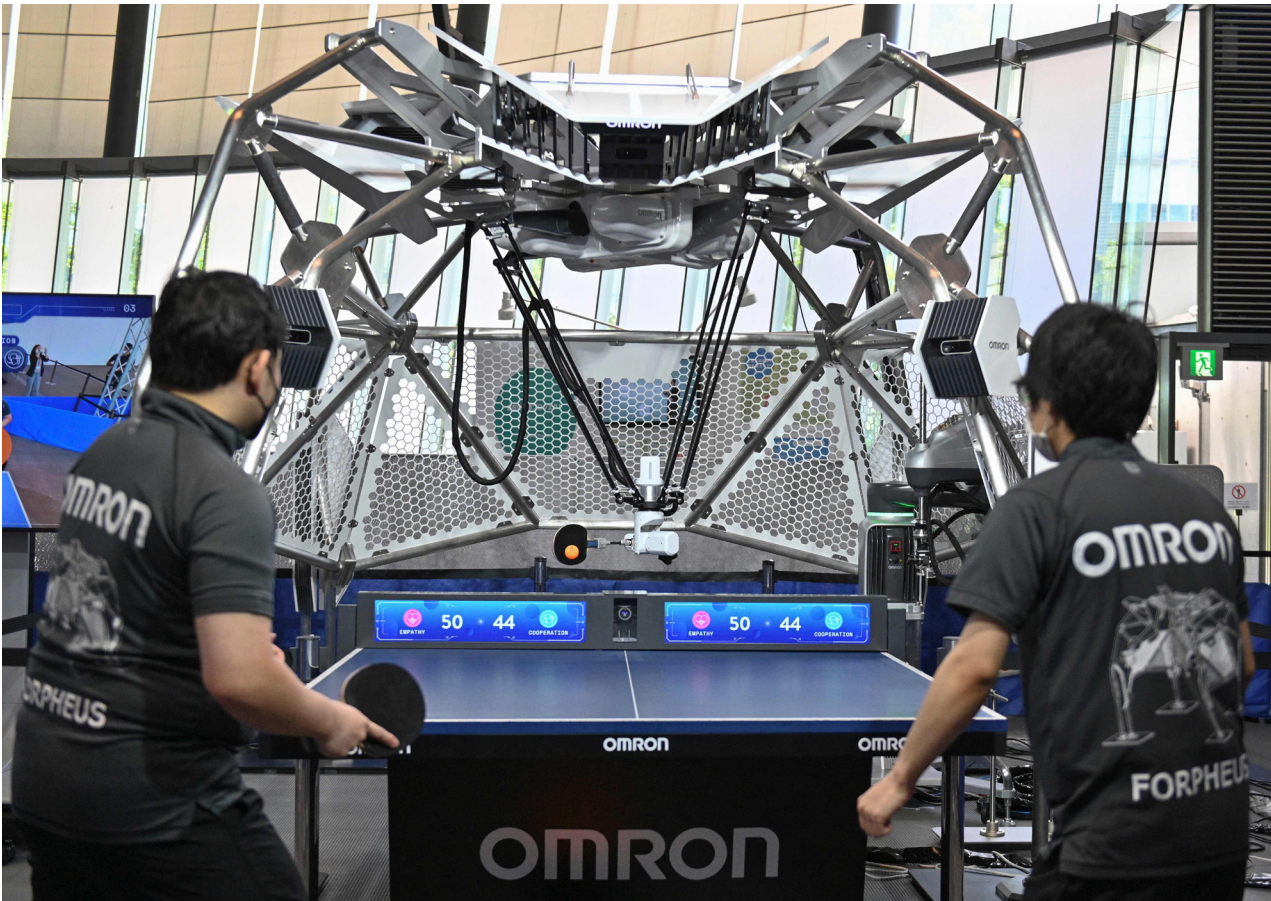
The Justice Department declined to comment Friday on the transcripts.

Booster shots: U.S. regulators said Friday that they are no longer considering authorizing a second COVID-19 booster shot for all adults under 50 this summer, focusing instead on revamped vaccines for the fall that will target the newest viral subvariants.

Pfizer and Moderna expect to have updated versions of their shots available as early as September, the Food and Drug Administration said in a statement. That would set the stage for a fall booster campaign to strengthen protection against the latest versions of omicron.

The announcement means the U.S. won’t pursue a summer round of boosters using the current vaccines for adults under 50, as some Biden administration officials and outside experts previously suggested. They had argued that another round of shots now could help head off rising cases and hospitalizations caused by the highly transmissible omicron strains.

Alito mocks foreign critics: Justice Samuel Alito mocked foreign leaders’ criticism of the Supreme Court deci-



Forpheus, a seventh-generation table tennis playing robot developed by Japanese electronics maker Omron, returns a shot during a press preview Friday at Tokyo’s National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation. KAZUHIRO NOGI /GETTY-AFP

sion he authored overturning a constitutional right to abortion, in his first public comments since last month’s ruling. The justice’s remarks drew more criticism as well as some support.

Speaking in Rome at a religious liberty summit, Alito, 72, spent only a couple of minutes on the subject of abortion, and then only to discuss his foreign critics — an unusual step for a high court justice.

Alito quipped that the ruling he authored had been “lambasted by a whole string of foreign leaders,” then joked that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had “paid the price” for his comments. Johnson called the decision “a big step backwards” shortly before stepping down amid unrelated ethics investigations.

Space station pullout: The head of Russia’s space agency said Friday that the country has not set a date for pulling out of the International Space Station

program, noting that it would only do that after it puts its own space station in orbit.

Yuri Borisov of the Roscosmos state space corporation told President Vladimir Putin this week that a decision was made for Russia to leave the station after 2024 and to focus on building its own orbiting station.

NASA and its partners hope to continue operating the 24-year-old International Space Station until 2030, and the Russian announcement threw that plan into doubt.

Speaking Friday, Borisov said Russia will start the process of leaving the station after 2024 but the exact timing would “depend on the International Space Station’s condition.”

He said Russia won’t pull out of the International Space Station until it puts its own into operation.

Northwest heat wave: Extreme heat is forecast to

stretch through the weekend in the Pacific Northwest and authorities are investigating whether triple-digit temperatures were to blame for the deaths of at least four people.

The Oregon State Medical Examiner’s Office said at least three people have died from suspected hyperthermia during the heat wave in Multnomah County, which is home to Portland. A fourth death was suspected due to heat in Umatilla County in the eastern part of the state.

Oregon and Washington state have seen scorching temperatures since July 25 and there will be no relief, forecasters say, until Monday when cool air from the Pacific Ocean blows in.

Portland and Seattle could be on track to break records for the duration of the hot spell.

If temperatures rise above 90 through Sunday in Seattle, that would be six straight days of the mercury topping 90 — something forecasters say has never happened

before in the city. Portland, too, could break heat wave duration marks.

Iran weather deaths: Iran on Friday raised the death toll from landslides and flash floods this week across the country to at least 53, including those killed in a mudslide in the capital of Tehran the previous day, state TV reported.

More than 30 people died in two villages, northwest and northeast of Tehran, after the monsoon dumped heavy rains that triggered mudslides there, the report said.

Almost two dozen people died in eight other provinces and 21 of Iran’s 31 provinces were affected by the heavy rains.

Authorities have blamed the high death toll on a wide disregard of safety measures by people who venture out in the storms while critics cite mismanagement in construction projects as well as late warnings as other causes.

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Africa at center of ‘new Cold War’

US, Russia, France in intense effort to gain allies on continent

By Andrew Meldrum and Mogomotsi Magome Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Russian, French and American leaders are crisscrossing Africa to win support for their positions on the war in Ukraine, waging what some say is the most intense competition for influence on the continent since the Cold War.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and French President Emmanuel Macron were each visiting several African countries this week. Samantha Power, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, went to Kenya and Somalia last week. The U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Linda Thomas-Greenfield, will go to Ghana and Uganda next week.

“It’s like a new Cold War is playing out in Africa, where the rival sides are trying to gain influence,” said William Gumede, director of Democracy Works, a foundation promoting good governance.

Lavrov, in his travels across the continent where many countries are suffering drought and hunger, has sought to portray the West as the villain, blaming it for rising food prices, while the Western leaders have accused the Kremlin of cynically using food as a weapon and waging an imperial-style war of conquest — words calculated to appeal to listeners in post-colonial Africa.

Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia has been working to win support in Africa for several years, reinvigorating friendships that date back a half-century, when the Soviet Union backed many African movements that were fighting to end colonial rule.

Moscow’s influence in



Women sift wheat in Mali. U.S., French and Russian leaders have been crisscrossing Africa to win support for their positions on Ukraine. JEROME DELAY/AP 2013

Africa was on display in March during the U.N. vote to condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. While 28 African nations voted in favor of the resolution, 25 on the continent either voted to abstain or did not vote at all.

Russia’s top diplomat this week visited Egypt, Congo, Uganda and Ethiopia, pledging friendship and charging the U.S. and European countries with driving up food prices by pursuing “reckless” environmental policies. He also accused them of hoarding food during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The situation in Ukraine did additionally negatively affect food markets, but not due to the Russian special operation, rather due to the absolutely inadequate reaction of the West, which announced sanctions,” Lavrov said in Addis Ababa,

Ethiopia’s capital.

Lavrov was warmly received in Uganda by President Yoweri Museveni, who for years has been a U.S. ally but has refused to criticize Russia over the invasion. Museveni even suggested at the outbreak of the war that Putin’s actions might be understandable because Ukraine is in Russia’s sphere of influence.

Museveni, an opinion leader on the continent who has held power for three decades, is an obvious choice for Russia as someone to strengthen ties with, said Ugandan political analyst Asuman Bisiika.

“Uganda is the center of gravity in East Africa,” Bisiika said.

Museveni, 77, has been strictly wearing a mask in public since the COVID-19 outbreak. But he did not

have one on when greeting Lavrov in front of photographers, apparently wanting to show warmth to the Russian. Museveni had a mask back on in his next public appearance a day later.

Russia is also courting African public opinion through its state television network, RT, formerly Russia Today. RT has announced that it will open a new bureau in Johannesburg.

RT was abruptly removed from Africa’s biggest pay-TV platform, Johannesburg-based Multichoice, in March after the European Union and Britain imposed sanctions against Russia. It is not clear whether establishing the new bureau will enable RT to resume broadcasts to Africa through Multichoice, which claims nearly

22 million subscribers on the continent.

“For Russia, it is the battle to be heard in Africa. It is not important for the actual war effort but for their long-term political influence,” Anton Harber, professor of journalism at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

On his tour of Africa, France’s Macron accused the Kremlin of using TV channels such as RT to spread propaganda. And he charged the Kremlin with blackmailing the world by thwarting the export of grain from Ukraine.

“They are the ones who blocked cereals in Ukraine. They are the ones who regulate their cereals,” Macron said in Benin. His itinerary also included stops in Cameroon and Guinea-Bissau.

Macron appealed to Africans to side against Russia.

“I’m telling you here in Africa, a continent that has suffered from colonial imperialism: Russia is one of the last colonial, imperial powers. She decides to invade a neighboring country to defend her interests,” he said. “That’s the reality.”

Power, the top U.S. AID official, was in East Africa to pledge aid to help the region’s fight against hunger amid a devastating multi-year drought. She did not hold back in criticizing Russia.

“By blockading Ukraine’s grain exports and restricting the trade of Russia’s own fertilizer, Putin’s actions have had the consequence of inflicting pain on the people of Kenya and on other countries throughout the world,” Power said in Nairobi.

Can Putin’s critics change Russia from jail?

Fierce debate among leading opposition figures is rekindled

By Valerie Hopkins The New York Times

Shortly after Russia shocked the world by attacking Ukraine on Feb. 24, Ilya Yashin, a local Moscow councilman and prominent opposition figure, decided that it was time to see a dentist.

The Kremlin was in the process of criminalizing criticism of the war, and Yashin, a very vocal critic, had decided to stay in his home country and continue to oppose President Vladimir Putin. Eventually, he reasoned, jail time was highly likely.

“I’m honestly terrified of dentists,” Yashin said in a recent interview on YouTube, “but I got a hold of myself and did it because I realized that if I ended up in prison, there wouldn’t be any dentists there.”

Two weeks after the interview was published, Yashin, 39, was arrested. He is now in pretrial detention in Moscow, on charges of “disseminating false information” about the war. He faces a sentence of up to 10 years.

Yashin’s arrest highlights the rapidly constricting avenues for dissent inside Russia as Putin cracks down on any divergence from the official narrative of the invasion. Beyond that, it has reignited the debate among the Russian opposition over how leading figures like Yashin can best serve the cause of undermining Putin: outside the country they want to reform, or inside a penal colony?

Yashin remains convinced he made the right choice. “What crime did I commit?” he asked rhetorically in a handwritten letter from prison to The New York Times. “On my YouTube channel, I criticized the special military operation



Police in riot gear march through Moscow’s Red Square on Feb. 2. Just over three weeks later, Russia would invade Ukraine. For opposition figures who chose to stay, imprisonment was simply a matter of when. SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE NEW YORK TIMES

in Ukraine and openly called what is going on a war.”

Some opposition figures disagree, saying that staying and fighting might seem courageous, but that prison is an ineffective platform for pushing reforms.

“Yashin is fearless — he is a fighter, he is brave,” said Dmitry Gudkov, a Russian opposition leader who left Russia last year. “I am sure that he will not back down,” he continued. “But I’m just sad that he will waste his life. It’s not understandable.”

Gudkov went into exile after what he described as “credible threats” that a criminal case against him would result in jail time. He said he had encouraged Yashin, a longtime friend, to go into exile as well.

Yevgenia Albats, a journalist and friend of Yashin who also decided to stay, took the opposite view, saying it was impossible to engage in politics seriously while being abroad.

“You cannot be a Russian politician in New York, in Manhattan,” Albats said in a phone interview from Moscow. “You cannot call yourself a Russian politician and be in London.” Still, she conceded, “The risks are very high and they are getting higher.”

In his letter to the Times, which was scanned and sent last week, Yashin wrote that Russian “prisons are swiftly filling with political prisoners” because Putin feels threatened.

“These harsh repressions,” Yashin wrote, “indirectly confirm that the current military campaign is devoid of legitimacy.”

Yashin knew his outspokenness and his platform would make him a target, and friends agree that his detention was only a matter of time. He had been repeatedly fined for “discrediting” the Russian military — mostly by talking about other wars. In April, he

shared a well-known photograph of women protesting the Vietnam War in 1969, saying that the hypocrisy behind the rationale for the war, expressed in the slogan “bombing for peace,” remained present today.

He was also fined in May for citing a condemnation of Russia’s invasion of Afghanistan by Andrei Sakharov, the first Russian to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and the well-known words of a Soviet bard who raised alarm about the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

After the invasion began in February, Yashin continued to call out Putin’s government, holding regular livestreams on his YouTube channel criticizing the power of the security services in Russia. He also documented a visit to the penal colony holding the most prominent Russian opposition figure, Alexei Navalny, and made reference to a BBC report about

Russian atrocities in Bucha, the basis of his charge for distributing false information.

The only choices open to opposition politicians from Russia today are “emigration or prison,” said Lyubov Sobol, who was forced to emigrate after her boss, Navalny, survived an attempted poisoning, returned to Russia and was immediately arrested.

Navalny has remained influential in jail. The large team that he assembled before his arrest has reconstituted abroad. Observers say maintaining such a public profile from prison requires a large apparatus like Navalny’s; Yashin has so far been able to smuggle out messages later posted to social media.

Sobol, a lawyer, said she could not criticize a colleague while he was in jail. But she said no one in Russia could fill in for Yashin, on YouTube or in the

political arena.

“He had a huge YouTube channel, a large audience, which trusted him,” she said of Yashin, who has 1.3 million subscribers. “I know many people who sent his videos to their grandparents. And they changed their minds about Russian propaganda, because he spoke very simple, bright and good language.”

“There are no other people” in Russia able to do that right now, she said.

Yashin became active in politics when he was 17, just as Putin came to power, and quickly rose to lead Moscow’s chapter of the youth wing of the liberal Yabloko party. When Yabloko reprinted a Russian translation of George Orwell’s dystopian novel “Nineteen Eighty-Four,” Yashin wrote the introduction, warning that the “era of Big Brother” had begun in Russia.

He eventually became close with opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, who was shot dead in Moscow in 2015 by assassins believed to be linked to Ramzan Kadyrov, the strongman who has led the Russian region of Chechnya since 2007. Around the time of his murder, Nemtsov was compiling a report on the involvement of Russian soldiers in the war that had begun in eastern Ukraine in 2014. Yashin finished and released the report, and became one of the few politicians willing to openly criticize the Chechen leader.

In 2017, Yashin and fellow opposition candidates won seven of 10 seats on the local council in the Krasnoselsky district of Moscow.

In a message published Tuesday on the Telegram social media app, Yashin called the decision to stay in Russia “very difficult, but correct.”

“Now people see: We are not running anywhere, we stand our ground and share the fate of our country,” he wrote.

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Probe continues in Danbury deaths

Three children died of strangulation, mother took her own life, state Medical Examiner's Office confirms

By Mike Mavredakis
Hartford Courant

The Connecticut State Chief Medical Examiner's Office on Friday confirmed the causes of death for a mother and three children found dead in a Danbury home Wednesday evening.

Sonia Loja, 36, was confirmed to have died by suicide by hanging, according to the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Farmington. Police said in a release Thursday that the initial investigation found that Loja "strangled her three children" before taking her own life.

Loja's three children, Junior Panjon, 12, Joselyn Panjon, 10, and Jonael Panjon, 5, were killed by homicide by ligature stran-

gulation, according to the medical examiner's office. Ligature strangulation is when someone is strangled with a rope, cord, wire or something similar.

Police were called to the home for a wellness check after receiving a call from a man in distress. They then found the three children dead in the home and a woman dead in the shed.

Police have not released a motive for the killings.

Loja reportedly ran an unofficial day care from her home, where she was often seen playing outside with children.

The state Office of Early Childhood was investigating an unlicensed child care

Turn to Deaths, Page 2



Danbury police confirmed Friday that preliminary investigations show that a mother strangled her three children inside this house in Danbury before taking her own life Wednesday. **PETER YANKOWSKI/AP**

Frontier fined \$5M for safety violations

Regulators point to 'reckless' fiberoptic cable installations

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Connecticut regulators have fined Frontier Communications \$5 million, accusing the Norwalk telecommunications company of unsafe excavations and other improper practices as it installed fiberoptic cable.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority said Frontier is "jeopardizing public safety through reckless and inappropriate underground installations in the public right-of-way."

Most of Frontier's underground installations are being completed using trenchless technology that requires exposing all facilities being crossed, and Frontier and its contractors "have not performed trenchless excavations in accordance with applicable standards," PURA said.

Chrissy Murray, a spokesperson for Frontier, said it has "taken immediate steps to remedy the situation."

"We hold ourselves and our contractors to the highest standards. We are working constructively with PURA and our contractors to fix any issues so we can continue our build to provide the state with this critical service," she said.

PURA ordered Frontier to immediately halt all underground installation of fiberoptic cables except for emergency repairs. Frontier must submit a plan for its oversight of the installation of the underground portion of its fiberoptic network.

Turn to Frontier, Page 2

Bristol auto parts plant set to close

Manufacturers' shift away from gas-powered cars cited

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Barnes Group Inc. said Thursday it's shutting its Engineered Components plant in Bristol, employing 95 workers, in response to declining production of gasoline-powered cars, inflation and supply chain problems.

The plant serves the U.S. automotive industry and focuses on manufacturing, stamping and assembly of legacy transmission springs and washers. Barnes cited a decline in U.S. powertrain automotive production "as manufacturers increase their electric vehicle models."

It said it decided to close the Bristol operations "to make Engineered Components more efficient and cost competitive."

Work performed at the plant will be transferred to other Engineered Components manufacturing locations or permanently discontinued. The shutdown is expected to be completed by mid-2023.

Sales of new light-duty plug-in electric vehicles, including all-electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, nearly doubled from 308,000 in 2020 to 608,000 in 2021, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. It's a small number compared with traditional gasoline-powered cars, but the number keeps rising as car manufacturers increasingly invest in electric vehicle production lines and government at the state and federal levels encourage production with tax benefits for car buyers and higher emissions rules.



The McCartin School in East Hartford has been a long-standing issue for the town since it closed decades ago. **DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT**

School's out, homes in thanks to funding boost

East Hartford to raze old McCartin building to make way for housing

By Don Stacom | Hartford Courant

EAST HARTFORD — The state on Friday authorized nearly \$260,000 to help East Hartford demolish the former McCartin School so it can invite single-family housing development.

The aid is part of a more than \$3 million set of grants the town will receive for several projects, including modernizing Veterans Terrace, making repairs at Rentschler Field, preserving 51 affordable apartments on Columbus Street and renovating East Hartford Middle School's auditorium and East Hartford High School's lecture hall.

"These projects will have a wide-ranging impact on our community," said state Rep. Henry Genga, who joined the rest of the town's legislative delegation in thanking Gov. Ned Lamont's administration for the aid.

The 63-year-old McCartin building has been a long-standing issue for the town since it closed decades ago as a school. East Hartford has decided that after razing it, the town will seek developers interested in buying the 7-acre property as the site for 16 houses.

Turn to Housing, Page 2

"The best way to build generational wealth is through home ownership. We're looking at houses of about 1,500 to 1,800 square feet. That will be good for the town and good for the grand list."

— East Hartford Mayor Mike Walsh

City treasurer resigns after decade in office

Cloud made Hartford history as first Black man to hold post

By Ted Glanzer
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Adam Cloud, Hartford's first African American male city treasurer, announced Friday at the city's Pension Commission meeting that he will retire from his position after 11 years to pursue other opportunities.

"It has been the highest honor of my life, a privilege to serve the great people of Hartford for these many years," Cloud said. "I'm proud of the many accomplishments of this office under my stewardship and remain confident of the good work this office will continue to do."

Cloud recalled that he was called to public service following his graduation from law school in 1996 when then-City Council President John Stewart approached Cloud while he was studying for the bar exam.

"[He] said, 'Adam, I heard you were home and that's good because we need your service. We helped raise you up on Plain-



Hartford Treasurer Adam Cloud announced Friday that he will retire from his position after 11 years. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

ville Street and Canterbury Street, and now that you've come back home we want you to help," Cloud said, adding that he began serving on the then newly formed Economic Development Commission and on the Rede-

velopment Agency. "Since that moment I have committed my life to the city of Hartford in various roles."

Those roles included serving on the library board, the Metropolitan District Commission and as treasurer of the Hartford Democratic Party before being elected city treasurer.

"For me, what is most significant in this experience serving as the treasurer of the city of Hartford is the team, which I have had the pleasure of working with. They are the best of the best, to the person," Cloud said. "We have been able to elevate the level of service of this office. We have consistently executed at a high level, with a smile, but a laser focus on our obligation as fiduciaries on behalf of the community we serve. ... While I always have recognized the privilege of serving, you never want to stay too long."

Cloud cited some health issues, including a kidney transplant, as part of the reason he is stepping down.

"I have taken stock about what is in my best interests and the best interests of my

Turn to Treasurer, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Restaurant owner pleads guilty in tax fraud case

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A West Hartford restaurateur who federal authorities said used a computer “zapper” program to underreport sales pleaded guilty to a tax offense Friday in U.S. District Court.

William Chen, 49, is part owner of restaurants that include Ginza Japanese Restaurant in Bloomfield, Ginza Japanese Cuisine in Wethersfield, Kaliu-bon Ramen in Wethersfield and West Hartford, and Feng Asian Bistro in Hartford and Canton, and Millbury, Massachusetts. The U.S. Attorney’s office said Chen is responsible for a \$2.1 million tax loss to the govern-ment.

Federal prosecutors said Chen bought and installed a computer point-of-sale system for the restaurants, but paid an addi-tional fee for “zapper” software, which is designed to enable a business to underreport sales by deleting transactions.

The prosecutors said that from 2013 to 2020, Chen and others at the restaurants used the zapper program to reduce gross receipts and sales tax collection reported by the point-of-sale program, intentionally suppress-ing taxable income reported in filings with the Internal Re-venue Service. Chen also is accused during the same period of failing to withhold, account for and pay federal income taxes, Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes and federal unemployment taxes for some employees.

Chen pleaded guilty to two counts of filing a false tax return, an offense that carries a maxi-mum term of three years in prison. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 21, and is free on personal recognizance.

HARTFORD

Police issue traffic warning ahead of Saturday events

Hartford police have sent out a traffic advisory ahead of a trio of events in the city Saturday night.

Police are advising residents to expect traffic delays due to a high volume of attendees expected at the Luke Bryan concert at Xfin-ity Theater, the Hartford Athletic game at Dillon Stadium and the Hartford Yard Goats game at Dunkin’ Donuts Park.

“Traffic delays are likely due to the amount of persons expected to be attending these events,” Lt. Martin Cunningham of the Hart-ford Police Department said. “We ask that you please plan accordingly to arrive on time and enjoy an evening in the city.”

— Mike Mavredakis

Treasurer

from Page 1

family and have decided that it is now time for me to move on do some other things,” he said.

“I’m not going anywhere. I am a Hartford boy, born and raised. I am still going to be here. But I think it’s time for me to turn the leader-ship of this organization over to the talented people with whom I’ve had the pleasure of working.”

His resignation is effective Sept. 2. As city treasurer, Cloud was responsible for, among other things, overseeing an invest-ment portfolio of about \$1 billion. Among his successes, Cloud cited his office’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion to increase opportunities for smaller, emerging diverse firms.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the record we have created and impact we have had both on our retirees but also within this industry to move the dial in the right direc-tion,” Cloud said.

Earlier this year, Cloud said he



Christine Sposito works her booth at the Hebron Farmers and Artisan Market on July 23. Sposito specializes in airplants, airplant displays and succulents. **MELANIE SAVAGE PHOTOS/COURANT COMMUNITY**



East Hartford resident Gail Mussgrave does business as Cozy Comforts CT, specializing in crocheted and knitted items for “people, homes and cats.” The items at left are kitty toys that can be filled with catnip.

Housing

from Page 1

Building one-family homes will promote generational wealth and be a small part of East Hartford’s campaign to build its inventory of owner-occupied housing, Mayor Mike Walsh said. Apartments and other rentals currently make up about 40% of housing in town.

“The best way to build gener-ational wealth is through home ownership,” Walsh said. “We’re looking at houses of about 1,500 to 1,800 square feet. That will be good for the town and good for the grand list.”

Finding a productive new use for the McCartin site is one of more than two dozen projects that Walsh’s administration targeted as priorities for the short- and mid-term future.

The property is in the heart of a residential neighborhood. It can be difficult to reach because it’s at the end of Canterbury Street, a dead end road that’s accessible from busy Maple Street or Forbes Street only by driving through other resi-dential streets.

The plan is to demolish the one-story building and require any future buyer to extend Canterbury all the way across the McCartin property to connect with Woody-crest Drive. Houses would be built along both sides of the extension.

The town plans to use bond money for the demolition and clean up, and the state Bond Commission on Friday was expected to also authorize another \$258,612 to help prepare the property.

That money was left over from a \$1 million state aid package in 2018 intended to clean up three blighted homes and a former fire station. Those projects finished under budget, and the state budget office intends to use the money for McCartin, which qualifies as a similar project. East Hartford will apply the money to environmental surveys as cleanup before demoli-tion begins.

With the YMCA moving its day care to Main Street, the old McCa-rtin building will be empty next year.

East Hartford established a few years ago that the former elemen-tary school couldn’t easily be remodeled for other uses. McCa-

Hebron market offers produce, artwork, more

HEBRON — The Hebron Farm-ers and Artisan Market brings shoppers to the Hebron Element-ary School parking lot and has dates remaining for August.

The markets feature fresh produce and other products from local farmers, as well as hand-crafted artwork, jewelry, crocheted items and more. Each market also offers live entertainment and food provided by local food trucks.

The Hebron Farmers and Arti-san Market takes place in the parking lot of Hebron Elementary School on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

— Melanie Savage

rtin had housed the town’s senior center until last year; a study showed that renovating a former church on Millbrook Drive would provide a better facility than trying to reconstruct McCartin.

“This is a square building that was built with very small class-rooms. We came to the conclusion after architectural plans that this place was obsolete.”

New housing and the extension of Canterbury Street will refresh the neighborhood and unload what could become a municipal white elephant, according to his administration.

If the council approves the plan and the YMCA can move out fully by the winter, the town would start demolition in early 2023. It will advertise the property and invite prospective buyers to submit development plans.

“What comes here will have to conform to the neighborhood,” Walsh said. “This will connect the neighborhood. This property is an island now. By making Canter-bury a through street, it will join the neighborhood. And if we can add 16 more homeowners, that just further settles the neighborhood.”

Frontier

from Page 1

Underground installation work may resume only after PURA has approved the over-sight plan and inspection program.

PURA said Frontier’s contractor, Parkside Utility Construction LLC, damaged a gas service in Ansonia by fail-ing to hand dig and expose the gas service under the driveway when trying to cross the service as required for trenchless exca-vations. Parkside paid a civil penalty of \$1,100, PURA said.

Parkside in Harleysville, Pennsylvania, did not imme-diately return a call seeking comment.

Regulators listed five instances of damage to electri-cal facilities between May and November 2021 in Meriden, Middletown, Wallingford and Waterford, damage to a gas facility in Stratford and to a Frontier facility in Enfield.

PURA also accused Frontier and its contractors of “evidently deploying” an unsafe prac-tice of breaking into electrical conduits to cross roadways. Regulators said the practice is dangerous and was discovered in an investigation of an elec-tric outage in Meriden on Oct. 17, 2021.

A conduit containing live electric facilities was broken and the fiberoptic conduits inserted inside the electric conduit to cross the street. This damaged the cable, causing its failure, PURA said.

In addition, Eversource reported that its conduit in Southington was compro-mised by the installation of fiberoptic cable to cross the road. The electric wiring had been damaged at the location where the conduit was broken and eventually it failed.

Parkside acknowledged the incidents were unaccept-able and contractors were no longer allowed to use a conduit sleeve under a roadway without a Parkside supervisor present to approve, the company told PURA.

Frontier has the right to request a hearing.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Deaths

from Page 1

business at Loja’s address after receiving an anonymous complaint, Maggie Adair, director of government and community relations at OEC said. Staff visited the home on June 2 and cited Loja for providing illegal care, Adair said.

OEC staff made another visit to the home on June 6, and Loja told them the children in care that day were relatives, Adair said.

Staff visited again on June 29 and 30, Adair said. On June 29, Loja was found to be providing illegal child care once again and was given a demand to cease order. On June 30, she was found to be following the order, Adair said.

Two of the children who died were students of Danbury Public Schools, Superintendent of Schools Kevin Walston said in a release.

“Losing children to violence is becoming far too common in our nation, and events such as these shine a light on the challenges communities face, specifically around mental health, that leave so many people vulnerable,” Walston said.

A team of professionals will be available at Morris Street School and Westside Middle School on Monday from 10 a.m. to noon to meet with students, staff or family members who need help processing the trag-edy.

“We ask that members of our community reach out to those they feel may be struggling with this event or any emotional issues more generally and direct them to resources or additional help,” he said.

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CONNECTICUT

ELECTION 2022

Stefanowski goes after Lamont on prisons

Republican candidate points to staffing shortages, unreliable air conditioning under governor’s watch

By Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski campaigned outside a high-security prison in Cheshire this week, complaining that the administration of Gov. Ned Lamont has failed to heed complaints of staff and inmates about staffing levels and unreliable air conditioning.

“I don’t know why this afternoon Gov. Lamont couldn’t go to Home Depot and buy 30 standalone [A.C.] units and get them in there. That’s what I’d do,” Stefanowski said. “If I were governor, I’d hop in my black SUV, or, better yet, I’d hop in my pickup truck.”

Echoing complaints of the union that represents correction officers, Stefanowski said staffing shortages require mandatory overtime in poor conditions and that new minimum standards for time outside cells are endangering staff and contributing to an increase in inmate fights and assaults on officers.

“So I’m here today to advocate for them,” Stefanowski said, standing in a public park across the street from the prison. “I’m here because I don’t think correction officers and inmates should have to wait for me to win this election, which we are going to win, to have bearable working conditions.”

Sean Howard, a correction

officer and the president of the AFSCME local that represents Cheshire officers, said in an interview that periodically inadequate air conditioning has been an issue for years in some of the housing units. The union was not represented at the campaign event.

Assaults on correction officers have increased markedly in the past year, but a Department of Correction spokeswoman disputed Stefanowski’s account of conditions at Cheshire and his interpretation of DOC policies on security, staffing and discipline.

Stefanowski said Lamont’s policies “have handcuffed correction staff and made inmates and the staff both less safe,” and he asserted that the administration has prohibited lockdowns necessary to periodically sweep facilities for contraband, including make-

shift weapons.

He displayed a photo provided by Howard’s Local 347 of two shivs seized a month ago at the Level 4 prison, the second-highest security classification in the system. The prison opened in 1913, but the only cell blocks still in use date from 1993.

Stefanowski said Lamont is solely responsible for new standards established by a law passed in April with the support of high-profile Republicans, including Stefanowski’s running mate, Rep. Laura Devlin of Fairfield.

Effective on July 1, the new law codifies standards for lockdowns, use of isolation cells, and minimum time inmates get out of their cells.

“Correction staff are no longer allowed to lock down facilities,” Stefanowski said. “Now here’s the problem with that. The lockdown

was the best way to find hidden weapons or contraband. So they can’t do it anymore.”

That is not what the new law says, nor is it DOC policy, said Ashley McCarthy, a former correction officer at Cheshire who is the director of communications and training at the Department of Correction.

The law prohibits the use of lockdowns to train staff for more than 24 total hours in a 30-day period, but it imposes no limits on the use of lockdowns deemed necessary to maintain security.

“It is not related to our ability to lock down for a safety issue,” McCarthy said.

Mark Pazniokas is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (ctmirror.org). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.

Cafe finds niche in healthy customers looking for a treat

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

WETHERSFIELD — Nicole Palazzo started her business somewhat as a response to the pandemic, and has found a niche with people who try to stay healthy but see the value in sometimes indulging their sweet tooth.

Indulge by Palazzo opened in Wethersfield in February 2021, at a time when people were venturing out more and were excited and happy to see a new business in town.

Palazzo had worked in the fitness industry for a decade, including as a manager of The Edge fitness clubs. During the height of the pandemic, she was making protein doughnuts at home and serving them to her personal training clients. Coming from a family who owns the Elmwood Pastry shop in West Hartford, Palazzo also had a little background in baking.

“I used to help on my day off, and I decorated the doughnuts there,” she said. “So, I put two and two together, the protein and the doughnuts.”

Indulge serves mini-doughnuts (protein and non-protein), hot coffee, iced coffee, protein shakes and protein iced coffee. Much of the

business is catering special events, including birthday parties and weddings, and it also has a trailer for traveling to large events such as food truck festivals and farmers markets.

“We keep it pretty simple,” she said. “We have a lot of events and a lot of orders. The mini-doughnuts people love because they’re bite-sized and easy to share.

“You can try several different flavors, and they’re easy for things like office parties. A lot of sales reps come in and bring them to their clients,” she said. “They’re a great ice-breaker. People love talking about them.”

The doughnuts are a little more healthful than some of those found elsewhere. All of the mini-doughnuts are baked, not fried.

“They are a little different, in that sense,” Palazzo said. “You’re eliminating all that grease. It’s also to indulge in something small, while staying on your weight loss goals. It’s actually better to eat them in moderation than to eliminate it all, only to go back to it.”

The 600-square-foot shop at 933 Silas Deane Highway is designed to be welcoming and inviting, and allows for visitors to perhaps catch a glimpse of the doughnuts being made.



Employee Tess Lewis-Holcombe, left, and owner Nicole Palazzo show off some of the mini-doughnut varieties available at Indulge by Palazzo in Wethersfield. STEVE SMITH/COURANT COMMUNITY

“We’re very family-friendly,” she said. “A lot of people bring their kids in before school. On the weekends, they have soccer games or baseball games and come in afterward for a treat.”

Word-of-mouth and social media have been the most effective advertising, Palazzo said, adding that her mother and two brothers, who work in the Wethersfield school system, spread the word to a lot of people.

“We know a ton of people and try to network. I try to network with other small businesses and get out

in the community as much as we can,” she said.

While Palazzo said word of mouth “has been our biggest help,” she also noted that “being on this busy road has been great.

“We’ve been focusing on social media. In the beginning, that was huge. People take pictures of our boxes of doughnuts and the different flavors that we have,” she said. “The protein ones gym people love to eat. So, they’ll take a picture of their protein doughnuts and blast it on their social media. I think the

best kind of marketing you can do is that genuine, authentic, ‘I came in because my friend told me it was great.’”

Future plans could include expanding the menu, but that would probably go hand-in-hand with a larger location.

“Right now, we can’t expand too much, in terms of items,” she said. “I believe the next step would be to get a larger space, to increase our menu items,” she said. “Who knows? Down the road, we might open more locations.”

Sympathetic portrayal of Jones rebuked as ‘hypocrisy’ in trial

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — A producer for conspiracy theorist Alex Jones’s media company tried to paint a sympathetic portrait of him Thursday as a jury decides how much in financial damages he should pay for his past claims that the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary school was a hoax — a move that lawyers for parents of a child slain in the massacre immediately rebuked as hypocritical.

Daria Karpova, a producer at Jones’ Austin, Texas-based Infowars website, testified that the pressure of multiple lawsuits and trials has taken a toll on Jones. He’s been “stressed out” and can’t relax even while on vacation as he’s been constantly worried about his programs and money over the past four years since being sued for defamation.

Karpova said some people believe Jones murdered the 20 first-graders killed in the massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, that left a total of 26 dead.

A lawyer for the parents suing Jones for at least \$150 million for the abuse they say they’ve suffered for years because of Jones’ false statements immediately jumped

on the depiction of a wounded man struggling to cope with lies said about him as posturing.

“When people lie about you, it affects you negatively, it affects your well-being? Do you understand the irony, the hypocrisy of making that statement in this courtroom right now?” asked Mark Bankston, attorney for Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, parents of 6-year-old Jesse Lewis, who was killed at the school.

“It’s just the truth,” Karpova said. “What am I supposed to say?”

Heslin and Lewis sued Jones for emotional distress and reputational damage that Jones caused them and are seeking at least \$150 million from Jones and his media empire Free Speech Systems.

Courts in Texas and Connecticut have already found Jones liable for defamation for his portrayal of the Sandy Hook massacre as a hoax involving “crisis actors” aimed at increasing gun control. In both states, the judges issued default judgments against Jones without trials because he failed to respond to court orders and turn over documents.

In total, the families of eight Sandy Hook victims and an FBI agent who responded to the school are suing Jones and his company in

multiple courts.

Jones has since acknowledged that the shooting took place, but insists he’s not responsible for the suffering that Sandy Hook parents say they have endured because of the hoax conspiracy, including death threats and harassment by Jones’ followers.

The first three days of the trial have been dominated by video clips of Jones and Sandy Hook reports on Infowars and testimony from Karpova, who has worked at the website since 2015.

Karpova was designated by the company to be its representative at trial, but could not answer questions about company revenue and its numbers of viewers and listeners. She also struggled to answer other questions about some of the video evidence she was instructed to prepare testimony about.

In one video clip presented by defense attorney Andino Reynal from 2017, Jones invited the families of Sandy Hook to come on his program for an “open dialogue”

“Alex could have been advocates for these parents, done a lot of good to stop anyone there to harass them,” she said as Heslin and Lewis sat about 20 feet away in the courtroom.

Karpova called the show’s reli-



Bill Ogden, partner with the firm representing Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, parents of Sandy Hook shooting victim Jesse Lewis, reacts while watching a clip from InfoWars during the trial for Alex Jones on Thursday. BRIANA SANCHEZ/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

ance on Wolfgang Halbig, a Sandy Hook denier, as a frequent guest and source of information “the worst decision ever made by the company.” Several of the clips featured in evidence have included Halbig, as well as a taunting email he sent to Scarlett Lewis.

Later Thursday, the jury watched a 2017 Infowars clip at the center of the case: a report where studio host Owen Shroyer strongly suggested Heslin could not have held the body of his dead son like he’d described in a television interview.

“I’m sorry if that hurt anybody,” Shroyer said Thursday after being called as a witness. “I hope their

grieving can end someday.”

He then implied the trial itself could keep hurting the families.

Jones has been in and out of the courtroom during testimony. He had four bodyguards with him Thursday. He has tried to portray the damages trial as an assault of the First Amendment right to free speech.

He arrived at the courthouse on Tuesday with a “Save the 1st” message printed on a large piece of silver tape over this mouth. In a break during opening statements, he held an impromptu news conference just steps away from the courtroom to call the trial a “show trial” by a “kangaroo court.”

‘Bigger and better’ Food Truck and Brew Fest on tap in Vernon

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

VERNON — The Tolland County Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for the second-annual Food Truck and Brew Fest, subtitled “Rally on the Green,” Aug. 20 from 2 to 10 p.m. at the CT Golfland at 95 Hartford Turnpike in Vernon.

This year’s event promises to be bigger and better than last year, with more entertainment, more

breweries, more food trucks and more vendors.

“We’ve got eight breweries, five food trucks and we’ll have vendors there selling goods, including jewelry, clothes and more,” said the Chamber Executive Director Melissa Smith.

Live music will include the bands Sunset Drive (rock, pop and modern country covers), Off the Traxx (Classic Rock), One Night Stand (1970s, 1980s and modern dance hits) and Dumb Love (Stone

Temple Pilots tribute).

Food trucks scheduled to appear include Wayne’s Wings & Things LLC, Square Peg Pizza, La Mesa, Pop City (Middle Eastern Food & Popcorn) and Tim’s Fried Dough. Coneheads Creamery, located on the site, will also be open.

Effort was made to only include local breweries, including Alvarium (New Britain), Back East (Bloomfield), Black Hog (Oxford), Counter Weight (Cheshire), 5

Churches (New Britain), Hog River (Hartford) and Stony Creek (Branford).

“Merican Mule, run by UConn alums, will be there with an assortment of cocktails in a can.

Visitors are invited to bring blankets and chairs and enjoy the day’s music and festivities.

“As long as the weather is good, we should have a really great turnout,” Smith said, adding that she hopes the new renovations at CT Golfland will allow for even bigger

events next year and beyond.

“There are so many things that are going to be on there. We’re just trying to pick up the momentum of consistently making it bigger and better, year after year,” Smith said.

There are still sponsorships available and spaces for vendors, and those interested should contact the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce at tccc@tollandcountychamber.org.

Advance tickets are \$10 and available online via EventBrite.



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BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

Expect scanty relief from price hikes, figures signal

Consumer demand for services continues to help fuel inflation, government says

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Inflation surged in June and workers’ average wages accelerated in the spring — signs that Americans won’t likely feel any relief from rising prices anytime soon and that the Federal Reserve will feel compelled to further raise borrowing costs.

An inflation gauge closely tracked by the Fed jumped 6.8% in June from a year ago, the government said Friday, the biggest such jump in four decades. Much of the increase was driven by energy and food.

On a month-to-month basis, too, prices surged 1% in June, the biggest such rise since 2005. Even excluding the volatile food and energy categories, prices climbed 0.6% from May to June.

Employees’ wages, excluding government workers, jumped 1.6% in the April-June quarter, matching a record high reached last fall. Higher wages tend to fuel inflation if companies pass their higher labor costs on to their customers, as they

often do.

Friday’s figures underscored the persistence of the inflation that is eroding Americans’ purchasing power, dimming their confidence in the economy and threatening Democrats in Congress in the run-up to the November midterm elections.

Some signs indicate that certain categories of inflation may moderate in the coming months, though not by much: Gas prices have fallen since mid-June from an average national peak of \$5 to \$4.26, according to AAA. Likewise, other commodity prices for items such as wheat and copper have plunged.

But more persistent drivers of inflation show little, if any, evidence of slowing.

The wage data released Friday — a measure known as the employment cost index — indicated that paychecks were still growing at a robust pace. That’s good for workers, but it could raise concerns at the Fed about its effect on prices.

Chair Jerome Powell cited this measure during a news conference Wednesday as a source of concern for the central bank’s

policymakers.

“This is a (report) that’s going to keep Fed officials up at night,” said Omair Sharif, president of Inflation Insights.

The government also reported Friday that consumer spending managed to just outpace inflation last month, rising 0.1% from May to June. Spending actually jumped, but most of the gain was wiped out by higher prices.

Rising consumer demand for services, such as airline tickets, hotel rooms and restaurant meals, is still helping fuel inflation. Many retail and consumer goods chains, though, say inflation is squeezing shoppers and limiting how far their money goes — a sign that consumer spending could further weaken.

Inflation has been rising so fast that despite the pay raises many workers have received, most consumers are falling behind the rising cost of living. High inflation and interest rates are also hampering the U.S. economy, which shrank in the April-June quarter for a second consecutive quarter, intensifying fears of a recession.

Facebook cuts funds to US news publishers

By Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

Meta Platforms says it will no longer pay U.S. news organizations to have their material appear in Facebook’s News Tab as it reallocates resources in the face of the economic downturn and changing user behavior.

The company said most people “do not come to Facebook for news, and as a business it doesn’t make sense to over invest in areas that don’t align with user preferences.”

Meta, then called Facebook, launched the partnerships in 2019.

The “News Tab” section in the Facebook mobile app only displays headlines — and nothing else — from the Chicago Tribune, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, BuzzFeed News, Business Insider, NBC, USA Today and the Los Angeles Times, among others. The company did not say how much it was paying the news organizations, but reports put it in the millions of dollars for large outlets such as The Wall Street Journal.

At the time the program launched, CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he saw “an opportunity to set up new long-term, stable financial relationships with publishers.”

But Meta, which is based in Menlo Park, California, said Thursday that a “lot has changed since we signed deals three years ago to test bringing additional news links to Facebook News in the U.S.”

On Wednesday, Meta Platforms Inc. posted its first revenue decline in its history and forecast weak results for the current quarter as well.

Meta does not pay for news content that outlets post on its platform. The company said Facebook News will continue in the other countries it’s in, and the shift in the U.S. won’t change deals in Australia, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.



Fishmongers work April 12 on a Cameroonian beach. The country’s foreign-owned fishing fleet is accused of illicit activities. GRACE EKPUI/AP

Fishing fleets’ fishy business

Cameroon a safe haven for foreign vessels under panned ‘flags of convenience’ system

By Richa Syal and Grace Ekpu
Associated Press

DOUALA, Cameroon — The Trondheim is a familiar sight off West Africa’s coast — a soccer field-sized ship pulling in tons of mackerel and sardines while flying the red, yellow and green flag of Cameroon.

But there is almost nothing about the Trondheim that is Cameroonian.

Once, it operated under the name the King Fisher and sailed under the flag of the Caribbean nation St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Then, it switched to Georgia, the former Soviet republic. It was in 2019 that it began flying the banner of Cameroon.

The Trondheim is one of several vessels reflagged under Cameroon’s growing fishing fleet which have changed names and been accused of illicit activities at sea. Currently, 14 of these vessels are owned or managed by companies based in European Union member states: Belgium, Malta, Latvia and Cyprus, an investigation by The Associated Press found.

The AP examined over 80 ship profiles

on MarineTraffic, a maritime analytics provider, and matched them with company records through IHS Maritime & Trade and the International Maritime Organization or IMO.

“They’re interested in the flag, they’re not interested in Cameroon,” said Beatrice Gorez, coordinator for the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements, a group of organizations highlighting the impacts of EU-African fisheries arrangements that identified the recent connection between companies in EU member states and the Cameroonian fleet.

Each of the vessels changed flags to Cameroon between 2019 and 2021, though they had no obvious link to the country and did not fish in its waters. The Trondheim and at least five others have a history of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, according to a report by the environmental group Greenpeace. Both the vessels and their owners conceal what they catch, where it goes and who is financially benefiting from it, maritime and company records show.

In recent years, Cameroon has emerged as one of several go-to countries for the widely criticized “flags of convenience” system, under which companies can — for a fee — register their ships in a foreign coun-

try even though there is no link between the vessel and the nation whose flag it flies.

The ships are supposed to abide by that nation’s fishing agreements with other countries. But experts say weak oversight and enforcement of fishing fleets by countries with open registries offer shipping companies the secrecy that allows them to mask their operations.

That secrecy, experts say, also undermines global attempts to sustainably manage fisheries and threatens the livelihoods of millions of people in regions such as West Africa. Cameroonian officials say all the ships that fly its flag are legally registered and abide by all of it laws. But regulators in Europe recently warned the country that its inability to provide oversight of its fishing fleet could lead to a ban on fish from the country.

Cameroon’s fleet is minuscule compared to countries such as Liberia, Panama or the Marshall Islands. But the rapid adoption of the country’s flag by some shipping companies accused of illegal fishing is raising alarm.

While countries have a right to allow vessels to fly their flag, Article 91 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea requires a “genuine link” to be established between vessel and flag state.

Record inflation hitting eurozone

LONDON — Inflation in the European countries using the euro currency shot up to another record in July, pushed by higher energy prices fueled by Russia’s war in Ukraine, but the economy managed better-than-expected, if meager, growth in the second quarter.

Annual inflation in the eurozone’s 19 countries rose to 8.9% in July, an increase from 8.6% in June, according to numbers published Friday by the European Union statistics agency.

For months, inflation has been running at its highest levels since 1997, when record-keeping for the euro began, leading the European Central Bank to raise interest rates last week for the first time in 11 years to tamp down prices.

China steps back from growth goal

BEIJING — China’s leaders effectively acknowledged the struggling economy won’t hit its official 5.5% growth target this year and said Thursday that they will try to prop up sagging consumer demand but will stick to strict anti-COVID-19 tactics that disrupted manufacturing and trade.

The announcement after a Communist Party planning meeting reflected the high cost President Xi Jinping’s government has been willing to incur to stop the virus.

The party promised to “strive to achieve the best results” in the second half. It didn’t directly address the growth goal but dropped references in earlier statements about targets, effectively acknowledging the economy will fall short after growing just 2.5% over a year ago in the first half.

Exxon, Chevron report record profits in Q2

By Isabella Simonetti
The New York Times

Exxon Mobil and Chevron, the two largest energy companies in the United States, said Friday that profits jumped in the second quarter as they continued to reap the benefits of soaring oil and gas prices.

Exxon reported income of \$179 billion for the three months through June, more than three times what it earned a year ago. Its revenue jumped to \$115.6 billion, from \$67.7 billion a year ago. Chevron’s performance was similar, with profit more than tripling to \$11.6 billion as sales rose to \$65 billion, from \$36 billion a year ago.

Coming after oil prices nearly doubled from a year ago, the bumper results were

expected, but Exxon and Chevron still beat analysts’ predictions for profits in the quarter. On Thursday Shell, the biggest oil company in Europe, also reported a record quarterly profit.

The energy industry’s windfall has followed a spike in crude oil, natural gas and gasoline prices this year, resulting mostly from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and efforts to punish Moscow by cutting off its petroleum sales to the rest of the world. A global economy rebounding from the coronavirus pandemic and hesitation by oil producers to quickly ramp up production have also pushed crude oil prices sharply higher.

In the three months through June, the U.S. crude oil benchmark averaged about \$109 a barrel, or 64% more than in the same

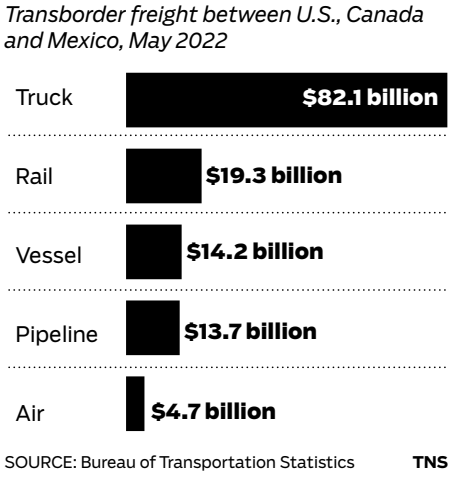
period a year earlier, data from Bloomberg shows. On Friday, the price of West Texas Intermediate crude was about \$99 a barrel.

Exxon on Friday said that its refining profits, earnings that come from processing crude oil into gasoline and other fuels, surged to \$5.3 billion, from a loss of \$865 million a year ago. At Chevron, refining profits were \$3.5 billion in the second quarter, up from \$839 million the year before.

The profit bonanza for the oil producers has not been lost on stock investors this year. The energy sector is one of two groups in the S&P 500, out of 11 in total, to post gains in 2022 — the other is utilities.

Collectively, the energy sector is up 32.5% for the year through Thursday, while the broader S&P 500 is down 15.1%.

North America cross border freight



BUSINESS



Cyclists ride past a terminal of energy firm Uniper on July 12 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, where liquefied natural gas is gaining greater appeal. PATRICK JUNKER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Germany warms up to LNG as energy options diminish

By Melissa Eddy and Stanley Reed
The New York Times

WILHELMSHAVEN, Germany — When a major energy company wanted to bring liquefied natural gas to Germany through the North Sea port of Wilhelmshaven three years ago, the proposal hit a brick wall. The company could not find enough customers, the government offered only tepid support, and residents denounced the scheme as a threat to a local apple orchard.

Now steel pipes are being rammed into the sea floor to prepare for the arrival of a nearly 1,000-foot-long LNG processing vessel. Nearby, bulldozers are digging along the perimeter of a forest to clear the way for a new 20-mile pipeline to connect to Germany’s gas grid.

The hope is for gas to start arriving before the end of winter, Uniper said.

Germany is in a race to bring in more natural gas from new sources as Russia slowly chokes the amount of fuel it provides to Europe’s largest economy, a punishment for opposing the invasion of Ukraine.

The stakes are escalating as officials in Berlin prepare for potential gas rationing and an economic downturn if deliveries are ultimately cut off.

LNG is the most readily available fuel to make up for the shortfall. Long considered an overpriced alternative to reliable flows via pipeline from Siberia, LNG almost overnight has become the answer to Germany’s overreliance on a single supplier, and a hope of staying warm over the winter.

When Berlin called for companies to help increase supplies of the energy, said Holger Kreetz, Uniper’s chief operating officer for asset management, all his company had to do was pull the plans out of the drawer.

“This is an important project that will help us get through this crisis,” Kreetz said. “It also highlights what is possible when the political will is there.”

Energy ministers from the European Union agreed Tuesday to call on all 27 member nations to voluntarily cut their natural gas consumption by 15% until spring. Germany is targeting even deeper cuts and at

the same time has set aside \$2.55 billion to rent four LNG processing vessels, including the one destined for Wilhelmshaven.

Unlike the rest of Europe, which boasts roughly two dozen terminals to receive liquefied natural gas, Germany resisted building LNG facilities for decades, arguing that chilled natural gas arriving by ship was too expensive.

Since Russia began curtailing gas deliveries to Europe, Germany has decided it needs its own fleet of floating terminals. These installations are essentially ships with apparatus to take the chilled liquefied gas from seagoing tankers, warm it back into a vapor and move it onshore.

Recent approval granted to the other northwestern ports, in Brunsbüttel and Stade, have created a competition for which provider can have the first terminal up and running before winter is over.

The great advantage of LNG is that it can be transported on ships — chilled to minus 260 degrees, natural gas reduces into a liquid that takes up only 1/600 of its volume as a gas.

Watchdog head: Fines may not stop firms’ bad behavior

By Ken Sweet
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The head of the nation’s financial watchdog is having second thoughts about how useful fines are in deterring illegal behavior in the financial industry, saying some companies have gotten so big that the money makes little difference.

In an interview, Rohit Chopra signaled that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau plans to deploy an array of tools that could limit the ability of a bank or financial firm to conduct business if it violates the law.

In less than a year at the helm of the CFPB, Chopra has moved to turn the agency back into the assertive regulator it was under President Barack Obama. The bureau took far fewer enforcement actions during the Trump administration.

Some staff that had left the CFPB under President Donald Trump have returned. The bureau has been adding enforcement staff and has reprioritized issues such fair lending that were set aside during the previous administration.

In the interview Chopra said the changes at the bureau have been necessary because the financial services industry has been transformed dramatically. Apple is now one of the biggest payment processors and has launched a credit card, Facebook tried to launch its own digital currency, and Amazon acts a financial middleman between merchants and customers in a way that was unthinkable a few years ago.

There’s also been the rapid growth of buy-now, pay-later companies that offer ways for borrowers to split a purchase into a number of equal installments, a product that effectively did not exist in the U.S. even three or four years ago.



Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Rohit Chopra says assessing fines may no longer be enough to deter illegal behavior in the financial industry. SUSAN WALSH/AP 2019

In some of his earliest moves, Chopra directed the bureau to investigate whether technology companies such as Apple, Amazon and PayPal may be violating privacy laws when it comes to payments. The bureau is also investigating whether buy-now, pay-later companies are causing consumers to take on too much debt, as well as how those loans should be reported on consumers’ credit reports.

“We are trying to make sure that we have a real-world understanding of today’s markets, not in light of what happened in the pandemic, but in light of banking has really changed in the past few years,” he said.

Banks and other businesses have taken notice. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce launched an advertising campaign this summer deliberately targeting Chopra, who the business lobbying group has alleged is trying to “radically change” the financial services industry.

Chopra is reevaluating some of the traditional tools at regulators’ disposal. Because of the size of some of these companies, he said that tools such as fines may no longer be sufficient to punish bad actors.

The CFPB is exploring other ways to rein in ille-

gal practices, ranging from limitations on a firm’s growth or banning a company from opening new accounts, as well as imposing fines and liability on individuals instead of just the company.

One option now being considered for repeat gross violations would be to revoke a bank’s deposit insurance, under the premise it is operating in an unsafe and unsound manner. Revoking deposit insurance would be a crippling blow for any financial company.

“We’re shifting our enforcement focus to these larger actors who knew something was a violation of the law but made a calculated decision to violate that law,” Chopra said.

Chopra’s comments partly reflect his experience as one of the Democratic seats on the Federal Trade Commission under Trump. There, Chopra was openly critical of the regulator’s history of big investigations into anticompetitive behavior that ultimately ended in an inconsequential fine against a large company.

“It felt like there were two standards at the FTC: Hammer the little guy when they break the law, but when a big firm engaged in repeat offenses, it felt like nothing happened,” he said.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Saturday, July 30, 2022

▲ **DOW**
32,845.13 +315.50

▼ **10-YR T-BOND**
2.65% -02

▲ **GOLD**
\$1,762.90 +12.60

Dow Jones industrials
Close: 32,845.13
Change: 315.50 (1.0%)

10 DAYS

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	32,845.13	+315.50	-9.61%
DOW Trans.	14,609.00	+333.70	-11.34%
DOW Util.	1,024.18	+9.83	+4.43%
NYSE Comp.	15,327.71	+128.90	-10.70%
Nasdaq Comp.	12,390.69	+228.09	-20.80%
S&P 500	4,130.29	+57.86	-13.34%
S&P 400	2,512.73	+31.87	-11.59%
Wilshire 5000	41,119.58	+561.82	-15.15%
Russell 2000	1,885.23	+12.20	-16.04%

Commodities

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	98.62	96.42	+31.13%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	8.23	8.13	+120.62%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.37	3.46	+51.07%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,762.90	1,750.30	-3.53%
Silver (oz)	20.16	19.83	-13.60%


(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange			Money Rates		
	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx		CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Britain	1.2175	.8214	Prime rate	5.50	4.75
Canada	.7806	1.2811	3-mo. T-Bill	2.39	2.45
China	1.483	6.7442	6-mo. T-Bill	2.89	3.11
Euro	1.0219	.9786	5-yr T-Note	2.70	3.00
Japan	.007499	133.35	10-yr T-Note	2.65	2.91
Mexico	.049113	20.3612	30-yr T-Bond	2.99	3.07

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	13,484.05	+201.94	+1.52%	-15.11%
London	7,423.43	+78.18	+1.06%	+5.3%
Hong Kong	20,156.51	-466.17	-2.26%	-13.85%
Nikkei	27,801.64	-13.84	-.05%	-3.44%

Stocks of Local Interest									
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD
AMTE IDEA Group LP (AMTD)	1.76	+.32		-57.9	Marathon Digital Hld (MARA)	12.99	-.21		-74.5
AT&T Inc (T)	18.78	+.20		-23.7	Meta Platforms Inc (META)	159.10	-1.62		-52.7
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	94.47	+2.80		-34.4	MetLife Inc (MET)	63.25	+1.40		+1.2
Alphabet Inc C (GOOG)	116.64	+2.05		-19.4	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	280.74	+4.33		-16.5
Alphabet Inc A (GOOGL)	116.32	+2.10		-19.7	Missfresh Limited (MF)	.12	-.02		-97.7
Amazon.com Inc (AMZN)	134.95	+12.67		-19.1	Mullen Automotive (MULN)	.79	-.01		-84.8
Amcor plc (AMCR)	12.95	-.09		+7.8	NRX Pharmaceuticals (NRXP)	.79	+.27		-83.4
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	13.71	-.05		-23.7	Novartis AG (NVS)	85.83	-1.43		-1.9
Amphenol Corp (APH)	77.13	+.42		-11.8	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	181.63	+1.79		-38.2
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	6.88	+.09		-12.0	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	78.17	+1.32		-10.2
Apple Inc (AAPL)	162.51	+5.16		-8.5	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	10.35	+.22		-43.2
Athersys Inc (ATHX)	.25	-.08		-72.4	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	50.51	-.21		-14.5
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	48.73	+.06		-2.3	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	3.27	-.14		-50.7
Avaya Holdings Corp (AVYA)	.90	-1.19		-95.5	Plug Power Inc (PLUG)	21.34	-.29		-24.4
Bank of America (BAC)	33.81	+.49		-24.0	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	99.99	+1.89		-7.6
Barnes Group (B)	33.82	-.87		-27.4	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	65.67	+.23		-1.6
Bausch Health Cos (BHC)	4.62	-.48		-83.3	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	93.21	+.82		+8.3
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	1935.69	+22.76		-19.3	Rogers Corp (ROG)	269.25	-.30		-1.4
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	73.78	-.92		+18.3	Roku Inc (ROKU)	65.52	-19.65		-71.3
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	95.68	+.15		-7.3	SIGA Technologies (SIGA)	17.19	-5.16		+128.6
Carnival Corp (CCL)	9.06	-.04		-55.0	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	59.17	+1.58		-27.8
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	40.53	+1.05		-25.3	Senti Biosciences (SENTI)	3.13	+1.27		-68.3
Charter Communic (CHTR)	432.10	-3.48		-33.7	Shopify Inc (SHOP)	34.83	-1.08		...
Cigna Corp (CI)	275.36	+2.14		+19.9	Snap Inc A (SNAP)	9.88	+.21		-79.0
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	37.52	-1.89		-25.5	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	97.33	-1.25		-48.4
Disney (DIS)	106.10	+1.20		-31.5	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.62	-.10		-2.8
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	116.37	+1.66		-8.7	Terex Corp (TEX)	33.51	+.68		-23.8
Ethan Allen (ETD)	22.99	+.01		-12.6	Tesla Inc (TSLA)	891.45	+48.75		-15.6
Eversource Energy (ES)	88.22	-.04		-3.0	ToughBuilt Inc (TBLT)	7.09	+1.23		-87.1
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	96.93	+4.29		+58.4	Transocean Ltd (RIG)	3.38	+.37		+22.5
Ford Motor (F)	14.69	+.69		-29.3	Travelers Cos (TRV)	158.70	+2.96		+1.5
Freeport McMoran (FCX)	31.55	+1.72		-24.4	Uber Technologies (UBER)	23.45	+.14		-44.1
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	3.59	+.02		-31.0	United Rentals (URI)	322.67	+17.84		-2.9
Gen Dynamics (GD)	226.67	+2.87		+8.7	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	542.34	+.85		+8.0
Gen Electric (GE)	73.91	+.77		-21.8	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	206.32	+3.94		-30.6
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	64.47	+1.62		-6.6	Voya Financial (VOYA)	60.16	+.77		-9.3
Honeywell Intl (HON)	192.46	+2.02		-7.7	Warner Bros Disc A (WBD)	15.00	-.59		-39.2
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	12.98	+.24		-18.5	Webster Financial (WBS)	46.45	+.48		-16.8
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	19.49	+.34		-23.0	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1239.43	+10.28		+22.2
Intel Corp (INTC)	36.31	-3.40		-29.5	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	69.31	-.18		+40.5
Kaman (KAMN)	30.78	+.36		-28.7	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	59.74	+2.62		-22.8
Keycorp (KEY)	18.30	+.39		-20.9	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	17.13	+.28		-24.3
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	51.34	+.92		-24.8					
M&T Bank (MTB)	177.45	+3.56		+15.5					
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	32.73	+.12		-27.1					



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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Singing principal made my day

What a pleasant surprise to see the article featuring the singing principal [Connecticut, Page 1, July 11, “Singing principal commands attention”]. Latanya Farrell is a bright light in our children’s lives, a source of inspiration in a world that needs more uplifting stories now. Great to see a happy story for a change — we need more of them.

Dody Cagenello, Wallingford

Are overworked cops too tired to protect public?

The recent headline “Top-paid workers are in police department” [Page 1, July 24] was not surprising, as it has been pointed out many times that overtime pay for police and firefighters in Hartford is out of control. What is surprising is that it continues unabated. For a police officer or firefighter to be able to make more than their base salary in overtime and special-event pay while still working their usual hours seems to be a dangerous situation. They are supposed to be protecting us, but I fear that they might be too tired and stressed to be effective.

In addition to blaming the people abusing the overtime for being greedy at the expense of doing their job, I also blame their superiors for allowing them to endanger the public by engaging in this reckless behavior.

Diane Carney, Newington

Images seem to be of poorer quality

We’ve noticed the change to fuzzier pictures/images in The Courant and hope that it is temporary. The print quality makes images in the paper look faded and unprofessional. Please return to your usual, better quality of printing.

Judy Cantwell, Canton

Letter writer should research McConnell

My response to Mr. Wry’s letter [“If you think things are going well, vote blue”] is, has he heard of Mitch McConnell and the filibuster? Over 400 bills have been passed in the Democratically controlled House and none has received a vote in the Senate. They range from abortion protection, voting rights, infrastructure and more. It is a fallacious argument that the Democrats control the three branches of government.

Patrick A. Farley, West Hartford

No reason to have murder story lead Page 1

Is nobody reviewing what goes on the front page? The Courant should be embarrassed to have published the front page of July 22. Main headline is about a murderer, and the picture immediately below is the ice cream guy.

How about highlighting the new Hilltop Farm Store and Creamery as a headline and put the murderer at bottom or side? Murderers should not be given headline space unless you have nothing better. Put it to the side or at bottom and drop the giant headline.

It would have been nice for Jason and Hilltop Farm to share that they made the front page of The Courant, but now, will they?

Susan Robbins Namerow, Avon

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We welcome all submissions and will publish the best. We especially look for younger writers and those whose voices aren’t heard often enough. Essays should be 600-700 words, written in the first person and emailed to oped@courant.com.

OP-ED

Griner shouldn’t be in prison. What price can the US pay?

By **Arthur H. House**

Russia’s detention of Brittney Griner has rallied American sentiment. The professional basketball player for the WNBA’s Phoenix Mercury and Russia’s UMMC Ekaterinburg is stuck in a familiar, nasty game in which certain countries seize Americans to demand concessions. Ordinary citizens and celebrities travel to dangerous countries and sometimes unwittingly yield the hostage gift to nefarious regimes. Thoughts of where they were going and what could happen to them just don’t occur. As Brittney Griner said, “There was no intent. I didn’t want to break the law.”

One would hope that an American could be expected to realize that bringing illegal drugs into Russia is recklessly dangerous. Our State Department makes that very clear. Perhaps the WNBA, whose teams pay salaries in the range of \$200,000, should warn its players of the hazards of travel to Russia where they can earn multiples of their WNBA salaries. But the end result, our empathy notwithstanding, is a popular player making a foolish mistake, putting herself in jeopardy and causing a problem for her country.

Predatory hostage-taking and oblivious or overconfident American travelers are a dangerous combination, leaving entanglements without ready exit. In Griner’s case, personal contrition appears genuine. Public concern and support are understandable. Patience is in short supply. Anxiety and discomfort for the hostage fester.

The president and secretary of state have both said they are doing all they can to win Griner’s release, but that doesn’t mean a resolution is easily at hand. Presidents, diplomats and Congress understandably hate hostage situations. Their options are limited. The prospect of prolonged custody understandably raises anxieties. Senators and representatives are implored to “do something.”

When it’s your spouse or brother or sister, the absence of avenues for effective action mean little and only exacerbate anger and panic. As a Senate staffer I dealt with truly distraught constituents who begged for urgent, immediate action and could not believe a senator was unable to intervene to get someone released.

There is a familiar warning that when you leave the United States you cannot take the U.S. Constitution and American laws with you. Its corollary is that foreign countries dislike challenges to their judicial processes. Some take pleasure in the attention that comes from holding a hostage. Others are eager to extract a price for release. Russia undoubtedly delights in hearing Americans express anxiety regarding Griner.

What should the United States do? Plead for release? Threaten military



Brittney Griner waits in a defendants’ cage before a hearing at Khimki Court, outside Moscow. Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and WNBA champion, was detained at Moscow airport in February on charges of carrying in her luggage vape cartridges with cannabis oil, which could carry a 10-year prison sentence. **ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/GETTY-AFP**

action? Pay money? Grant a trade concession? Search for someone in the U.S. justice system to release in exchange?

I once handed Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko a stack of several thousand American signatures requesting release of political prisoners as then Connecticut Sen. Abraham Ribicoff requested clemency. Gromyko’s disdain competed with his disinterest. He set the documents aside and said quietly the cases would be dealt with according to Soviet law. End of discussion.

American officials have their hands full with journalists taken captive simply for practicing their trade, or people inadvertently involved in political controversies, such as former Marines Trevor Reed and Paul Whelan, also detained in Russia.

Cases can end badly. A horrifying example is Otto Warmbier, a U.S. college student imprisoned in North Korea. Accused of taking a sign from his hotel and charged with “subversion,” he spent over a year in prison, returned in a “vegetative state” and died soon after he got home.

Unforced errors such as Griner’s are especially frustrating because they could have been avoided. She has pled guilty to breaking Russian law by bringing hashish into the country. That cannabis might be excused in the U.S. is exactly the sad point. Whether by inadvertence, ignorance or expectation of special consideration, her action played right into Russian hands.

A hostage has to live with the consequences if the U.S. grants concessions for release. One remarkable suggestion has been that the U.S. release the infa-

mous “Merchant of Death,” Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer, in exchange for Griner. Bout is justly serving a 25-year sentence in U.S. federal prison for conspiring to kill Americans and aiding terrorists.

The lack of equivalence between transporting some hashish oil and responsibility for countless murders is obvious. And who would want their actions to result in enabling Viktor Bout to resume his vicious profession?

Griner should not be in prison. The public cry for action is understandable but often oblivious to the difficulty of winning release. Nor is resolution helped by publicity or a fellow basketball player’s heartfelt but naïve plea on national television for “our U.S. government to do everything and anything” to help a “hero.” Publicity can have the adverse effect of making a hostage more valuable. The U.S. doesn’t have a lot of concessions to offer Russia right now.

While favorable outcomes are difficult to identify, the U.S. will eventually have to pay a price for Griner’s freedom, if a price can be identified.

Let’s hope the unfavorable outcomes are avoided: prolonged, unjustified detention of Griner or release of the Merchant of Death to pursue his depravity.

Arthur House has worked at the National Security Council and for the director of National Intelligence. He chaired Connecticut’s Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and was Connecticut’s chief security officer. Currently he is an adjunct professor at UConn. He lives in Simsbury.

OP-ED

The chips bill means the Era of Hands-Off Government is over

By **E.J. Dionne Jr.**

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Long ago and far away — actually, it was last year — President Joe Biden and Democrats in Congress hoped they might change the focus of public debate from the divisive themes of the Donald Trump years to an emphasis on practical measures to create a fairer and growing economy that could compete with the economic powerhouse that is China.

It has been a long, frustrating trip since then. Biden’s Build Back Better program blew up, largely because of resistance from two Democratic senators. Efforts to fortify the U.S. economy against the China challenge and the need to bring home certain industries — microchips especially — languished because of disagreements between House and Senate Democrats.

But with Senate passage on Wednesday of what Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., dubbed the “CHIPS and Science” bill, the Biden vision got a bit of life pumped back into it, in significant part because the microchip shortage has fed inflation by wreaking havoc on U.S. supply chains.

The \$280 billion measure, passed by the House on Thursday, is rooted in an earlier proposal by Schumer and Sen. Todd C. Young, R-Ind. It includes \$52 billion in subsidies to increase semiconductor production in the United States and investment tax credits — estimated to be worth \$24 billion — to support advanced manufacturing in the industry. The bill also authorizes some \$200 billion for various forms of scientific research and education.

Echoing the concerns about the state of American scientific and technological education after the Soviet Union took the lead in the space race with the launch of its Sputnik satellite in 1957, the legislation

includes money for the National Science Foundation and other top research institutions. That includes funding for universities, fellowships, scholarships and training in technology fields.

“It’s an economic Sputnik launched by China,” Schumer said in an interview. The bill “says to Americans, we’re going to stay No. 1 in the world economy in the 21st century ... not give up, sit on the sidelines, say we can’t compete.”

The fact that the bill passed on a bipartisan Senate vote of 64-33, with the support of 17 Republicans, underscores two truths: It is a lot easier to get Republicans to vote for business subsidies than social programs, and — as Schumer’s to-the-barricades comments suggested — fear of China’s increasing internal authoritarianism and aggressive economic mercantilism spans both political parties.

The measure also marks an ideological turn away from the era ushered in by Ronald Reagan in the United States and Margaret Thatcher in Britain, when free markets, lower taxes and deregulation were hailed as the keys to economic growth. Since the financial crisis of 2008 and a pandemic that required massive government spending to ward off economic collapse, market purism has been on the decline.

“The old laissez-faire theory is: Leave the companies alone, and they’ll do great,” Schumer said. “But now we have nation states in China and Europe that are heavily investing in both science and high-end manufacturing. And if we do nothing, we will become a second-rate economic power.”

Not everyone is convinced. The chips bill drew opposition from a majority of GOP senators, most of whom still embrace versions of the older creed. From the left, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., denounced the proposal as “billions and billions of dollars in corporate welfare.”

But Sanders was the lone opponent in the Democratic caucus, and the chips bill, like the infrastructure bill passed last year, marked a rare but timely victory for what might be called Bidenism.

The promise of Biden’s presidency held two objectives in tension: ushering in a new era of bipartisanship while strengthening the Democratic Party by delivering tangible benefits (in jobs, health care, child benefits and other areas) to working-class voters who had moved to the Republican Party of Donald Trump. The hope was that some of them could be lured back by bread-and-butter politics.

It has been rough going for both ends of the strategy. Large parts of the Biden program failed because Republicans united in resistance to it. Nor could the president’s ambitious plans get the 50 votes in the Senate they needed to pass through what’s known as the reconciliation process, thanks to resistance from Sen. Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., and, at times, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz.

A booming economy might have compensated for some of the setbacks. But inflation and now fears of recession — they will likely be aggravated by the Federal Reserve’s 0.75 percentage point increase in interest rates on Wednesday — have taken some of the sheen off the large-scale job growth during Biden’s first year.

The chips bill provides Biden and his party a useful reprieve about three months before the midterm elections, and some of its provisions — aimed, for example, at creating technology hubs outside big and largely Democratic metro areas — are a direct response to the economic discontent that accelerated Trump’s rise.

And whatever its short-term political effect, its long-term message is that the Era of Hands-Off Government is over.

E.J. Dionne Jr. writes about politics for The Washington Post.



**I asked what kind of family
Amina wanted. She said,
‘A family like yours.’ That’s
when I knew I had to adopt her.**

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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The 2022 Toyota Tundra.
TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

REDESIGNED RIDES

Edmunds auto experts offer their picks for revamped vehicles worthy of buyers’ attention

By Miles Branman
Edmunds

There are two key points within the life cycle of a vehicle: the introduction of a fully redesigned model and a significant midlife update. If you’re looking to maximize your new vehicle purchase, knowing these timelines can help you make the best decision. An automaker’s marketing might liberally describe the vehicle as “all-new!” at both points, but it’s important to know the difference. A midlife update typically ushers in appealing styling tweaks or feature updates, but a full redesign introduces wholesale changes to the vehicle. These improvements, which can include better fuel economy, more power or new helpful technology features, can be dramatic.

With this in mind, Edmunds experts have selected five noteworthy redesigned vehicles for 2022 that are worth looking into.

Toyota Tundra

Since the Tundra entered the full-size pickup truck market in 1999, Toyota has nurtured a growing group of loyal customers. The last-generation Tundra, introduced back in 2007, had started to lag behind competitors, though. This redesigned Tundra touts many improvements, such as smoother ride, a robust base turbocharged V6, and even an available hybrid model that cranks up the power and offers improved fuel economy.

Though Edmunds’ real-world fuel economy results couldn’t match EPA estimates, the new truck does otherwise boast smooth power, an intuitive 14-inch center touchscreen and a full-width power rear window. The changes for 2022 put the Tundra back in the thick of the full-size light-duty pickup discussion. Starting MSRP: \$39,695

Acura MDX

Acura’s three-row midsize SUV has been on sale since 2000 and enters a new generation for 2022. The latest MDX boasts eye-catching new exterior styling, additional legroom in all three rows and improved interior materials. More than before, the MDX comes across



The 2022 Acura MDX. CHRIS TEDESCO/HONDA MOTOR CO.



The 2022 Subaru BRZ. SUBARU OF AMERICA

as a bona-fide luxury SUV.

Ride and seat comfort are high points for the latest MDX, though Acura’s touchpad interface can be distracting to use while driving. The tech story isn’t all sour, thankfully. Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity, a punchy 16-speaker ELS Studio sound system, and USB charging in all three rows are contemporary conveniences. Look to get the MDX Type S as its more powerful engine is worth the extra cost. Starting MSRP: \$49,195

Honda Civic

The Honda Civic is a compact sedan staple with 50 years of refinement. For 2022, the Civic bundles its affordable, efficient and reliable attributes in a more mature body style. Compared to the outgoing Civic’s edgy design, the latest model is modest — some might even say boring. However, the majority of Edmunds experts appreciate the new styling direction.

Inside, the 11th-generation Civic is spacious and well-built. Though the base four-cylinder lacks grunt, the available turbocharged engine helps the Civic get up to highway speeds or pass slower traffic with

suitable authority. Ride comfort and handling are segment-leading, but road noise levels are elevated at highway speeds. The 2022 Civic is priced higher to start than some competitors, but its excellent fuel economy and compelling standard features feel worth the premium. Starting MSRP: \$23,645

Subaru BRZ

Developed alongside Toyota’s GR86, the Subaru BRZ has become an enthusiast icon in just 10 years. Attainable, lightweight and available with a manual transmission, the BRZ sport coupe is both an entry point for blossoming drivers and a weekend toy for those with a little cash to spare. Redesigned for 2022, the latest BRZ has revised styling, a more powerful engine and an updated interior.

Steering and handling remain sharp, and an improved touchscreen adds convenience. The fun per dollar here is hard to match, far outweighing small complaints about its engine note and sound-system quality. Much the same can also be said about the Toyota GR86. But of the two, we think the BRZ is the better buy. Starting MSRP: \$28,990



The 2022 Honda Civic. HONDA MOTOR CO.



The 2022 Hyundai Tucson. HYUNDAI MOTOR AMERICA

Hyundai Tucson

The compact SUV class is fiercely competitive and dominated by the Honda CR-V and Toyota RAV4. But the Hyundai Tucson continues to earn new buyers with its mix of affordability, comfort and convenience. And now there’s the 2022 model that kicks off a new generation with useful tech features, standout styling and a roomy cabin.

Edmunds experts appreciate the new Tucson’s ride comfort and user-friendly tech, though its engine can be sluggish to respond. The 2022 Tucson’s jagged design may split opinions, but standard features and build quality are objectively solid for the price range. Starting MSRP: \$27,095

Edmunds says: If you’re hesitant about choosing a vehicle based on a particular feature or styling trait, waiting for a refresh or redesign could solve those issues. Keep in mind, however, that if you opt for the outgoing model year vehicle before a redesign or refresh, it tends to depreciate at a faster rate than the model that replaces it since the latest body style will usually be more desirable when sold or traded in.

Automakers target average households with new crop of electric vehicles

By Tom Kirsher
Associated Press

In their first rollouts of electric vehicles, America’s automakers targeted people who value short-range economy cars. Then came EVs for luxury buyers and drivers of pickups and delivery vans. Now, the companies are zeroing in at the heart of the U.S. auto market: the compact SUV. In their drive to have EVs dominate vehicle sales in coming years, the automakers are promoting their new models as having the range, price and features to rival their gas-powered competitors. Some are so far proving quite popular. Ford’s \$45,000-plus Mustang Mach E is sold out for the

model year. This month, General Motors’ Chevrolet brand introduced an electric version of its Blazer, also starting around \$45,000, when it goes on sale next summer. Also coming next year: An electric Chevy Equinox, with a base price of about \$30,000, whose price could give it particular appeal with modest-income households. There’s also the Hyundai Ioniq 5 and Volkswagen’s ID.4 in the \$40,000s and Nissan’s upcoming Ariya around \$47,000 with a lower-priced version coming. All start off considerably less expensive than Tesla’s Model Y small SUV, the current top EV seller, with a starting price well into the \$60,000s. The new models, which can get

about 300 miles per electric charge, are aimed at the largest segment of the U.S. market: modest-size SUVs, representing about 20% of new-vehicle sales. Industry experts say entering the smaller SUV segment, with its reach into a broader demographic of buyers, is sure to boost electric vehicle sales nationally. “If it’s a price you can reach but it’s a product that you can’t put your kids and your dog in, you’re not going to buy it,” said Stephanie Brinley, principal analyst for S&P Global Mobility.



The 2024 Chevrolet SS EV.
PAUL SANCYA/AP

Best true wireless earbuds for working out

CNET.com

The best workout headphones are wireless — and ideally, true wireless — so there’s no cable that might get caught or restrict your movement. They’ll need to fit your ears snugly enough that they won’t fall out during a workout, but not so tightly that they’re uncomfortable to wear over an extended period. Sound quality is obviously an important factor as well, but you’ll also need to consider durability and sweat or water resistance. And if you’re opting for a pair with noise-canceling capabilities, you’ll want some sort of transparency mode that allows some sound in so you can hear the world around you for safety reasons.

The three models listed below fit a wide range of budgets as well as various design and feature sets, but all are tested and recommended by CNET editors. And if you want to see more choices, check out CNET’s full list of workout-friendly earbuds and headphones online.

BEST EVERYDAY EARBUDS FOR SPORTS
USE: BEATS FIT PRO

Hot on the heels of the third-generation AirPods, Apple has another new set of earbuds, this time from its subsidiary audio company, Beats. Technically, the new Beats Fit Pro (\$200) aren’t AirPods, but they’re built on the same tech platform as the AirPods Pro. Unlike Beats’ earlier and less expensive Studio Buds, the Beats Fit Pro include Apple’s H1 chip and have most of the AirPods Pro’s features, including active noise canceling, spatial audio and Adaptive EQ. We’d venture to call them the sports AirPods you’ve always wanted. And for some people, they might just be better than the AirPods Pro.

■ Water-resistant: Yes (IPX4 rating: splash-proof)

SPORTS EARBUDS FOR ANDROID
USERS: GOOGLE PIXEL BUDS A-SERIES

Google’s Pixel Buds A-Series are kind of unusual, in that they’re relatively new but not exactly an upgrade. They look and sound very similar to 2020’s Pixel Buds 2, which debuted at \$179 but are now selling for less. However, instead of getting new features — like active noise canceling — they’ve actually lost a few. Why? The “A” stands for affordability: They only cost \$80. That new lower price is the real story here, making these a bona fide true-wireless value, particularly for Android users. And the integrated stabilizer arcs (aka sport fins) help keep the buds securely in your ears during sporting activities.

■ Water-resistant: Yes (IPX4 rating: splash-proof)



The Beats Fit Pro. **DAVID CARNOV/CNET**



The Google Pixel Buds A-Series. **GOOGLE**



The Tranya T40. **TRANYA**

BUDGET PICK: TRANYA T40

If you like the earhook design of the Beats Powerbeats Pro but don’t want to spend \$150 or so on them, there are plenty of budget alternatives out there. We like the Tranya T40, which typically

list for \$50 but are often discounted to \$40 or less.

They sound quite good for the money, fit comfortably and securely and have good battery life (up to 8 hours).

We also like that they have physical buttons for controlling playback and

volume rather than touch controls.

Their charging case, which charges via USB-C, doesn’t feel terribly sturdy and is somewhat bulky, but these are a good value.

■ Water-resistant: Yes (IPX5 rating: can withstand heavy sprays of water)



The 2022 Cadillac XT5 is the brand’s bestselling vehicle. **HENRY PAYNE/THE DETROIT NEWS**

AUTO REVIEW

Road tripping to a Georgia raceway in the Cadillac XT5

By Henry Payne
The Detroit News

BRASELTON, Georgia — Three years ago, I watched here at Road Atlanta Raceway as a blood red, V-8-powered Cadillac DPi-V.R prototype streaked ahead of a snarling pack of IMSA race cars on its way to a victory at the Petit Le Mans 10-hour endurance race.

The Cadillac was the class of the field.

This year I returned to Road Atlanta driving an XT5 SUV, the bestselling Caddy in the luxe maker’s lineup. There is an unmistakable similarity between the DPi-V.R and XT5. They share Caddy’s teardrop headlights, vertical taillights and brand logo. And that’s about it.

These are the bookends of the Cadillac brand: the single-seat, 600-horsepower, championship-winning race car and the five-seat, entry-level luxury utility vehicle. They are part of Caddy’s multiple identities formed from navigating the shifting winds of the auto industry over the last decade.

Consider: The DPi-V.R is the V-8-powered halo for the V-series CT4 and CT5 Blackwing sedans that are soon to be retired because Cadillac is going all-electric beginning with the Lyriq later this year — the

2022 Cadillac XT5 Sport

Vehicle type: All-wheel drive, five-passenger SUV
Price: \$57,090 including \$1,195 destination charge (\$70,365 AWD Sport as tested)
Powerplant: 3.6-liter V-6
Power: 310 horsepower, 271 pound-feet of torque
Transmission: 9-speed automatic
Performance: 0-60 mph, 6.5 seconds
(Motor Trend est.)
Towing capacity: 3,500 pounds as tested
Weight: 4,338 pounds
Fuel economy: EPA 18 mpg city/26 highway/21 combined; 463 miles range

model that will replace the XT5. Yet, Cadillac’s racing program will live on with a new, V-8-powered hybrid race car coming in 2023, the same model year as the battery-powered Lyriq. The race car will be the fiercest V-8 this side of a 2023 Cadillac Escalade-V.

Confused? Join the club. But as I drove through Road Atlanta’s gates in the XT5 — loaded with four family members — it had an undeniable cool factor.

My family and I were at Road Atlanta because we have a team of three sports racers that compete in amateur motorsport. We loaded four carry-on

suitcases, a briefcase, and backpack under the rear hatch with room to spare. We three Payne boys are all north of 6 feet and were able to sit comfortably.

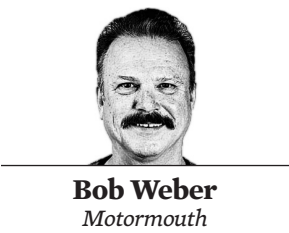
With 462 miles of gas range and gas stations everywhere, we didn’t give the Caddy XT5’s fuel needs a second thought as I merged into 80 mph Atlanta interstate traffic.

With a 3.6-liter V-6 under the hood, the XT5 Sport model spits out a healthy 310 horsepower (an upgrade from the car’s standard, 235-horse turbo-4). But the engine is EV-quiet. On road, the XT5 is competent but didn’t inherit any DPi-V.R DNA.

Wireless Apple CarPlay proved wonky on our trip. The dash design is tasteful, though it won’t impress those looking for fashionable, expansive dash screens. The smallish, 8-inch console screen was useful for tight parking in the Road Atlanta paddock.

The Road Atlanta grounds attracted thousands of spectators — some queuing in Shelby Cobras, Acura NSXs, Porsches, Corvettes and so on. I saw a 1950s Cadillac Eldorado — an icon the Lyriq intends to re-create. The XT5? Not so much. It will never achieve Eldorado’s legendary status, but it offers a comfortable daily driver experience.

Turn it off, or let it idle?



Bob Weber
Motormouth

Q: I was wondering if there’s a rule of thumb for shutting off a car while waiting in line at the bank or pharmacy or coffee shop, etc., to conserve gas. If I think I’m going to be idling more than a minute, like at the bank, I shut the car off. Does this make sense, or should I just let the car idle? Does it take more gas to restart the car?

— N.M., Elk Grove Village, Illinois

A: I do the same thing, even on my motorcycle. Of course, there is an added reason on the bike. It gets hot down there.

My rule of thumb is: If it seems like a long time, shut it down. It does not take more gas to restart the engines.

Q: I have a 2018 Hyundai Sonata. I deliver meals on wheels two days a week. Is it better for gas mileage, when making short stops, to let the car run or turn it off and then restart?

— M.M., Easton, Pennsylvania

A: See the answer above. (And thank you for volunteering.)

Q: I read a comment about running lights on cars. In Minnesota, we are required to have our headlights on when it is raining. I notice that many have headlights (running lights?) on, but their taillights are not on. Sometimes, at night, cars have headlights on, but not their taillights. Are the running lights only illuminating the headlamps and not the rear lights? This seems to be a road hazard. It is difficult to see a vehicle from behind at night or in a rainstorm if their lights are not on. Are running lights a feature on most cars?

— J.L., Minneapolis, Minnesota



If sitting in line seems like a long time, shut the car engine down, suggests Bob Weber. **DREAMSTIME**

A: Although daytime running lights (DRLs) are compulsory in some states, there is no federal law. As you have noticed, DRLs do not also turn on the taillights. Most carmakers have linked the headlights with the windshield wipers, so both activate during inclement weather. Although most cars now sport independent DRLs, early vehicles simply illuminated the high beam filament at a lower voltage to glow dimmer.

Q: On vehicles that have a manual transmission and tachometer, is it more effective to target an optimum rpm rather than mph for maximum mpg?

— C.P., Downers Grove, Illinois

A: Not necessarily. Peak torque on the rpm curve seldom yields peak fuel economy. The highest possible gear plus slower engine speed is the sweet spot.

Q: My 93-year-old father finally gave up driving and gave me his low mileage 2015 Hyundai Genesis. I had two trusted mechanics look at the car and both tell us that the whole charging system is fine including the battery and alternator. They both said you have to start the car

and let it run every couple days. I think that’s ridiculous. I have cars that sit for weeks and start right up. I think there has to be a draw somewhere.

— M.S., Addison, Illinois

A: There may be a parasitic electrical draw, as you suspected.

Although some current is always flowing to keep the car’s control systems alive, anything over 500 milliamps (one-half amp) is too much. This is easily tested using an ammeter connected between the negative battery terminal and the cable once it is removed. There an interval step to keep the car’s system alive while the battery cable is disconnected using a jumper wire. This step can be avoided using an amp clamp. Talk it over with your mechanic.

By the way, letting the car idle does not charge the battery very well.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber’s work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. Send questions along with name and town to motor.mouth.tribune@gmail.com.

CELEBRITIES



Will Smith, right, has again apologized to Chris Rock for slapping him at the Oscars. AP PHOTOS

Smith posts apology video for slap

From news services

Will Smith has again apologized to Chris Rock for slapping him during the Oscar telecast in a new video, saying that his behavior was “unacceptable” and that he had reached out to the comedian to discuss the incident but was told Rock wasn’t ready.

“There is no part of me that thinks that was the right way to behave in that moment,” Smith said in a less-than-6-minute video posted online Friday. “I am deeply remorseful, and I’m trying to be remorseful without being ashamed of myself.” To Rock, he said: “I’m here whenever you’re ready to talk.”

Smith answered pre-selected questions about his behavior at the March 27 Academy Awards, when he slapped presenter Rock after the comedian made a reference about the hairstyle of Jada Pinkett Smith, Smith’s wife.

Smith also apologized to Rock’s family, including his brother Tony and his mother, Rosalie, who was horrified to see her son hurt and told *Us Weekly* that, “When he slapped Chris, he slapped all of us. He really slapped me.”

Smith apologized to his family “for the heat that I brought on all of us,” and

his fellow Oscar nominees to have “stolen and tarnished your moment.”

Smith also said his wife did nothing to encourage his slap. “Jada had nothing to do with it,” he said. “I made a choice on my own.” Pinkett Smith has said that she has alopecia areata, a hair-loss disorder.

Smith previously apologized to Rock in a statement after the Oscars.

For his part, it seemed Rock has moved on after the Oscar incident, an eyewitness told *Us Weekly* after his show Sunday in New Jersey.

“Anyone who says words hurt has never been punched in the face,” said Rock, according to the source. In addition, Rock said, “I’m not a victim.”

“Yeah, that (expletive) hurt (expletive),” Rock reportedly said. “But I shook that (expletive) off and went to work the next day ... I don’t go to the hospital for a paper cut.”

Actor Cribbins dies: Bernard Cribbins, a beloved British entertainer whose seven-decade career ranged from comedies to children’s television, has died at age 93. Agent Gavin Barker Associates announced Cribbins’ death on Thursday.

A warm, avuncular character actor, Cribbins played

station porter Albert Perks in the 1970 film “The Railway Children” and voiced all the characters in “The Wombles,” a 1970s animated series about a family of burrowing creatures living under London’s Wimbledon Common. He also appeared in several movies in the “Carry On” series

A younger generation knew Cribbins as Wilfred Mott, a companion to David Tennant’s titular Doctor, when “Doctor Who” was revived in the early 21st century.

John, Spears collaborate: “Tiny Dancer” is getting an audio makeover thanks to a reported collaboration between its original singer and co-writer Elton John and Britney Spears, a source in the industry told *People* magazine. Universal Music is expected to drop the track next month.

July 30 birthdays: Guitarist Buddy Guy is 86. Singer Paul Anka is 81. Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger is 75. Singer Neal McCoy is 64. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 61. Actor Lisa Kudrow is 59. Actor Vivica A. Fox is 58. Actor Terry Crews is 54. Director Christopher Nolan is 52. Actor Hilary Swank is 48. Actor Jaime Pressly is 45. Actor Gina Rodriguez is 38.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Maid of honor doesn’t say yes to dress outing

Dear Amy: Last year, I asked “Hannah” to be my maid of honor for my wedding. She exuberantly accepted, and we both started planning. The wedding was five months away, so things needed to be figured out quickly.

I gave Hannah no less than three different options of times to go dress shopping. She was always “unable to make it.”

She is single, with a car, and has no real reason to be unavailable.

After a couple months of this, I let Hannah know that I was really sorry, but another friend would be stepping in as maid of honor. I said I still very much wanted her as a bridesmaid.

She completely freaked. She told me I was a terrible person, how dare I do this to her when she “spent so much time and effort on this already,” that I obviously didn’t care about our friendship, and she didn’t want anything more to do with me!

Our young daughters were best friends.

I have tried to repair this friendship. It still bothers me that maybe I was in the wrong. I also want to help restore our daughters’ friendship. She won’t even let her daughter have play dates with us anymore.

Was I so wrong in picking a different maid of honor? Or should I have just sucked it up and dealt with Hannah’s problematic schedule?

— *Still Bothered*

Dear Bothered: You both blew it.

From your account, “Hannah” was helpful in exuberantly partner-

ing with you to plan this wedding quickly.

Must a maid of honor accompany the bride to shop for dresses? No.

If Hannah had a reason for wanting to skip this task, she should have told you (rather than dodging), but rather than demoting her, you could have simply told her that due to your own schedule, you were going to try to get another person to go dress shopping with you. So yes, you should have sucked it up.

Your choice to judge her for having “no real reason to be unavailable” is unfortunate. No MOH who has already committed to the role will value being demoted.

You slighted her, and Hannah has overreacted. Taking this feud to the next generation is unkind.

Dear Amy: We believe our daughter’s partner has a drinking problem. When he’s around alcohol, he occasionally overindulges.

The most recent occurrence happened when my wife and I were away from home for the evening, and they were at our home.

When we left the house, I had a six pack of beer and a bottle of rum, both of which were gone when we returned at the end of the evening.

We have a history of witnessing bad behavior from our daughter’s various partners.

We don’t want to completely lose our relationship with our daughter and grandchildren, so I’m at a loss of how to bring this up without seeming to attack her judgment and further alienate her from us. We could simply hide the alcohol, but do you

think we should discuss this with him alone or with them as a couple?

— *History of Miscommunications*

Dear History: You don’t actually know who consumed all of this alcohol. (Your daughter might have done her part.)

You might want to contact both your daughter and her partner and say, “After you were at our house the other night, we noticed a six-pack of beer and a bottle of rum were gone. Did you guys have a party and not invite us?”

Generally, you should assume that any family members staying in your home will help themselves to consumables — unless you’ve asked them not to.

In the future, put anything you don’t want consumed — whether it is alcohol, leftovers or Mint Milano cookies — out of reach.

Dear Amy: This is for “Constantly Tuned In,” who keeps the TV on all night — but then the TV awakens her.

Here’s how I cured my insomnia: I listen to a long audiobook over and over.

It helps me fall asleep, but I know the story, so it doesn’t keep me awake.

Unlike a TV or radio, an audiobook has no sudden alterations in sound to awaken me. I have been listening to something all night for over 40 years.

— *Sleeping in Culver City*

Dear Sleeping: I love your solution.

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Brent Faiyaz gives new album feel of Shakespearean tragedy

By Suzy Exposito
Los Angeles Times

This summer, billboards in major cities across the country displayed the following cryptic phrase: “I would like to apologize in advance for the person I’m gonna become once this album drops.”

The billboards belonged to singer-songwriter Brent Faiyaz; the album in question was “Wasteland,” a cautionary, R&B-trap opera deriding fame in a time of social and political upheaval. “Wasteland” recently debuted on the *Billboard* 200 at No. 2, just behind global megastar Bad Bunny. This counts as a massive triumph for Faiyaz, 26, who has steadfastly committed to working independently of major labels, including distribution.

Faiyaz was born Christopher Brent Wood in Columbia, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore, to parents of African American and Dominican descent. Despite being extremely introverted as a child, he recorded freestyle raps at home in secret; it was on his Soundcloud page that he test drove the moniker “Faiyaz,” an Arabic word for “artistic,” as suggested by a Muslim classmate. Although his teen dream was to be a famous rapper, Faiyaz began slowing his flow to reveal a more silver-tongued, R&B Casanova lurking within.

“Wasteland” pushes forth R&B for a generation of chronic social media overshakers and blood-letters, keen to show their battle scars after a pandemic left millions dead and millions more feeling lonely and adrift. Faiyaz, who once sought out the limelight, found himself hard to recognize under its glare.

This interview with Faiyaz has been edited for clarity and length.



Brent Faiyaz recently released his album “Wastelands,” a cautionary, R&B-trap opera. JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY 2018

Q: You put up billboards that read: “I would like to apologize in advance for the person I’m gonna become once this album drops.” Where did this idea come from?

A: It was the fans. They kept tweeting this line, we just took that and ran with it. From my fans’ perspective, it was fuel for them to be some type of way. For me, it’s a lifestyle thing — my life will never be the same again.

Q: What was your state of mind when you started recording “Wasteland”?

A: I was living in Atlanta for a couple of months, (because) I was dating somebody there. But the George Floyd murder led to riots and protests. And with (COVID-19) going on, everybody done lost somebody. People were out of work. It was a pretty (messed) up time, but I was starting to make the best money of my life. I (was) buying cars and traveling from place to place. I’d be in the studio by day and protesting at night. Then I’d go to the club. That’s when I wrote the (“Wasteland”) songs “Dead Man Walking” and “Loose Change.”

Q: Those songs are pretty nihilistic. Could you even imagine having a future at that time?

A: I mean, I mostly felt guilt. I was able to do all this cool (stuff) while people were down bad. I still think we still haven’t fully coped with COVID. There is a lot of healing we as people haven’t done in the last two years.

Q: “Wasteland” unfolds like an R&B opera of sorts. Is this record meant to be autobiographical?

A: Well, the songwriting definitely is. But the skits? Nah.

Q: What made you adopt this form of storytelling?

A: I wanted to give it the feel of a Shakespearean tragedy. A hero fighting against the evil of his own fatal flaws.

Q: Have you ever felt hesitant or scared to share intimate, sometimes unflattering parts of yourself with people?

A: I feel like I had no choice. It wouldn’t resonate if I didn’t go there. Whether you like what you feel, or don’t like what you feel, the goal is to make you feel something.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Risks taken at this time may not pay off. Things are likely to backfire. This is not the time to put yourself out there or to make vital decisions, as unforeseen small issues could derail your best-laid plans. Play it safe and verify every detail.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Disappointment could come knocking at any moment. People with more power than you could be deciding things for you, which can be difficult — particularly if you don’t know them. Despite possibly not getting what you were hoping for, you might still see some improvements in the near future.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Getting your point across might be difficult today. Others seem like they’ve decided to misunderstand you on purpose. This can be frustrating for you, to the point that you blow up at someone for being stubborn and not wanting to understand you. Count to 10 before you get heated!

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Finances could spur headaches throughout the day. Unexpected bills could make your wallet a little lighter than normal, so you might want to avoid impulse buys at the moment. Instead, do your best to save up for any future curveballs. Be fiscally responsible today.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You might be used to being open about your feelings, and if anyone tries to criticize how you express yourself, you may find yourself on the defensive. While your pride could be wounded by this, don’t feel like you have to retaliate against that person. Own who you are.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Any unfinished business could turn into a problem. Someone with whom you don’t have closure might try to return to your life, or a project that you never finished may create issues for you. Wanting to move on to something new is very valid, but don’t feel like you have to run away from anything.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Taking a break from being social may be necessary today. Regardless of how much you want to be there for other people, the needs that you’re being asked to fill might be too much to bear! You can only juggle so many tasks at once. Overcommitting would be a painful downfall.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Difficult news could crop up when it comes to your present duties. Completing the tasks at hand might come with obstacles. Try to seek out the counsel of your friends whenever dealing with the news becomes difficult. A close pal may have been through a similar situation.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone in your life may challenge your current beliefs. They might be doing this to get your attention, or simply because they want to know more about your philosophy. Being frustrated by their questions is understandable. Try to answer them with patience.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Old connections could break at this time. You might find that you were wearing rose-colored glasses when it came to a friend. This doesn’t have to end the friendship completely, but a separation might take place after you learn this about them. It could be hard to accept that things have changed.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Trying to please other people isn’t likely to go well at the moment. Even when you’re on your best behavior, there may be someone there to criticize what you’re presenting them with. Build yourself up instead — you’ve got to be the one who advocates for you!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Energy might be difficult to come by right now. Feeling drained is likely, and even a good night’s rest or some caffeine may not have been able to perk you up. There could be tension in your friend group. No matter how much the drama tries to suck you in, do your best to resist.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On July 30, 1729, Baltimore, Maryland, was founded.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

In 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

In 2010, the Afghan Taliban confirmed the death of longtime leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and appointed his successor, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor.

In 2020, Herman Cain, a former Republican presidential candidate who became a supporter of President Donald Trump, died in Atlanta of complications from the coronavirus at the age of 74.

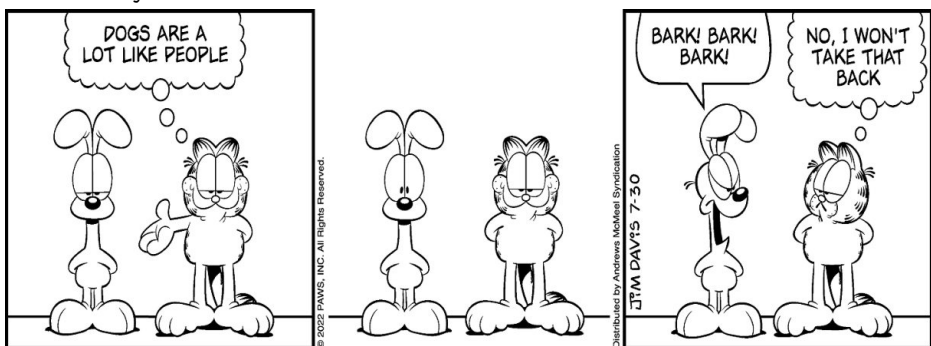
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



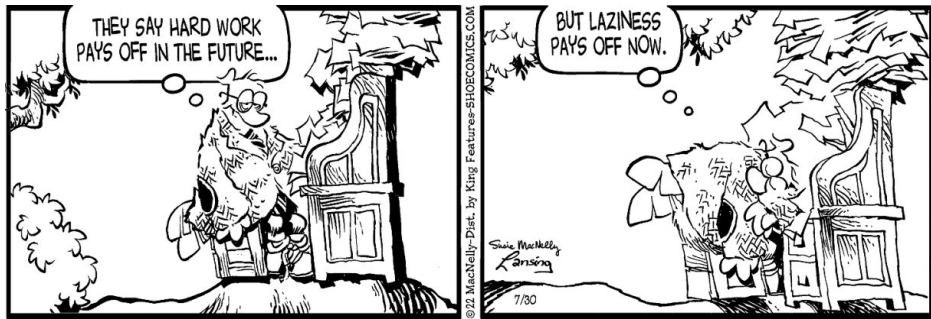
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



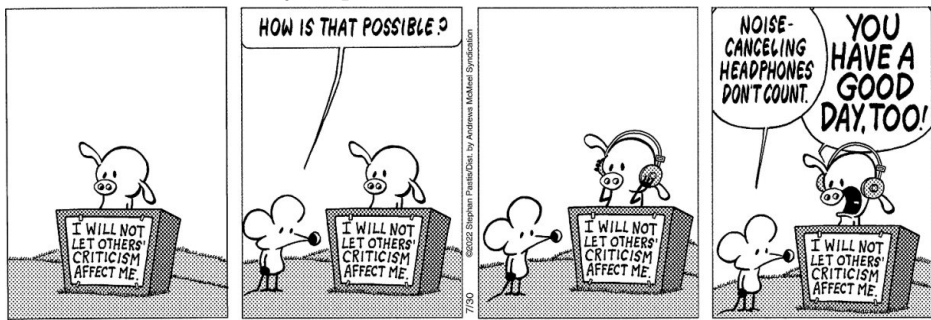
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



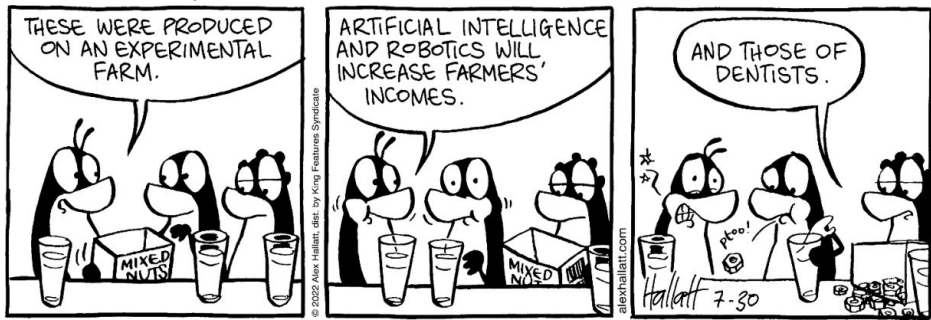
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



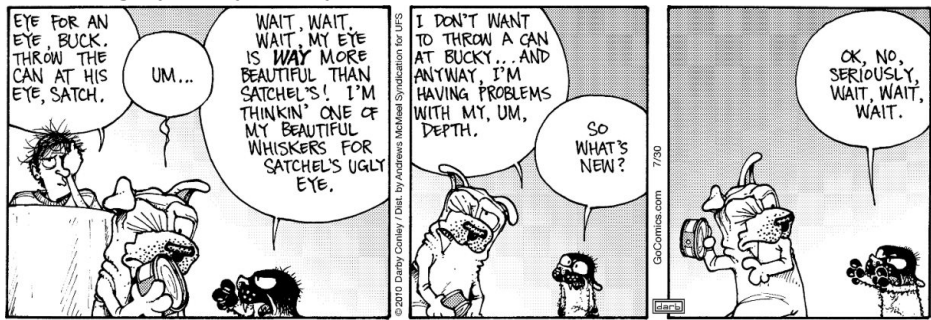
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Henry Barajas and Rod Whigham



WEATHER

SATURDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Sunshine, some fair-weather clouds, less humid. Northwest winds at 5 to 10 mph.

HIGH

86°

LOW

61°

SUNDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly sunny and very warm.

HIGH

89°

LOW

67°

MONDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly sunny, very warm and humid.

HIGH

89°

LOW

69°

TUESDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Partly sunny, hot and humid, chance for a late day shower or a thunderstorm.

HIGH

90°

LOW

69°

WEDNESDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Sunny, hot and humid.

HIGH

92°

LOW

69°

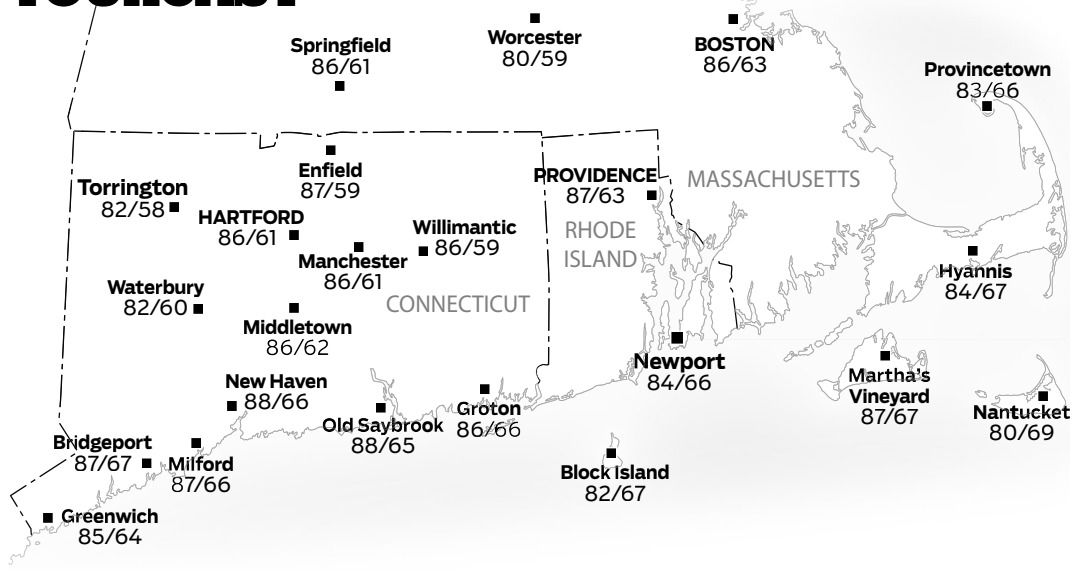
CONNECTICUT WEATHER

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courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

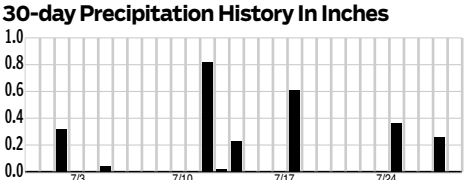
High pressure over the Ohio Valley on Saturday will bring sunshine with some fair-weather clouds and highs in the 80s. With a west to northwest wind, the shoreline could end up being a few degrees warmer than inland. Humidity will be moderate with dew points ranging from the mid-50s to the lower 60s. Sunday will be mostly sunny and very warm with highs in the 80s to near 90 degrees and it will be a bit more humid. Precipitation continues to be a scarce commodity and the next five days will be quite dry with the only chance for some showers Tuesday afternoon and evening.

-Gary Lessor

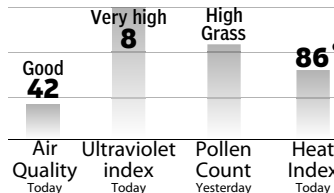
ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 5 p.m.)	0.26 0.15
Month to date	2.66 3.87
Total this year	22.83 26.04

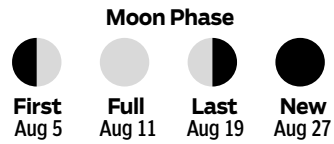
Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	5:42 a.m.	5:43 a.m.
Sunset	8:12 p.m.	8:11 p.m.
Moonrise	7:17 a.m.	8:21 a.m.
Moonset	9:40 p.m.	10:03 p.m.



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	11:34 a.m.	5:34 a.m.	76°
Saybrook Jetty	11:44 p.m.	5:36 p.m.	77°
Connecticut River at Portland	12:17 a.m.	6:27 a.m.	
Madison	12:31 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	78°
New Haven	12:51 a.m.	7:09 a.m.	78°
Stamford	12:55 a.m.	7:23 a.m.	76°
River Stage at Hartford	3:15 feet at 5:30 p.m.		
Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W MSunny	L.I. Sound E MSunny	B.I. Sound PCloudy
Wind	NW/W, 5-10	NW/W, 5-10	NW/W, 5-15
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	1-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Friday	91 at 1:27 p.m.	70 at 4:28 a.m.
Normal for date	85	64
Record for date	96 in 1933	51 in 1977
A year ago	78	66
Range this year	97	-2

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND

Bangor	81 59 PC
Burlington	77 63 PC
Caribou	75 57 PC
Concord	82 56 S
Montpelier	73 55 PC
Mt. Wash.	49 44 PC
Portland	82 62 S
Woods Hole	84 64 S

NATION

Albany	81 59 PC
Albuquerque	87 66 PC
Atlantic City	88 62 S

Baltimore	87 64 PC
Bismarck	93 60 S
Boise	102 69 S
Buffalo	76 61 PC
Charleston	93 78 T
Cincinnati	82 63 PC
Cleveland	79 61 PC
Indianapolis	82 64 PC
Jacksonville	96 73 PC
Las Vegas	95 81 PC
Miami Beach	87 82 PC
Milwaukee	79 64 PC

Nashville	85 68 PC
New Orleans	91 77 PC
New York	86 69 PC
Okla. City	83 73 C
Omaha	87 62 S
Orlando	94 73 S
Pittsburgh	81 60 PC
Raleigh	89 72 PC
St. Louis	80 66 C
Salt Lake City	95 71 PC
San Antonio	100 76 PC
San Diego	78 69 C

WORLD

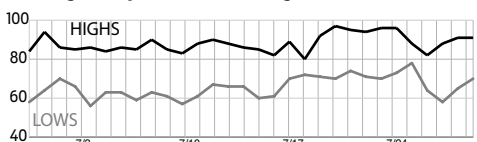
San Juan	88 79 SH
Tucson	96 77 T
Amsterdam	79 60 PC
Athens	97 77 S
Bangkok	94 77 SH
Barbados	84 76 SH
Beijing	89 75 PC
Beirut	85 77 S
Berlin	78 58 SH
Bermuda	85 78 SH
Budapest	78 63 SH
Buenos Aires	61 51 PC
Cairo	102 73 S
Cancun	88 78 SH
Dubai	100 89 PC
Dublin	72 59 SH
Edinburgh	73 52 SH
Helsinki	67 53 PC
Hong Kong	88 78 SH
Istanbul	89 73 S
Jerusalem	86 68 S
Johannesburg	67 49 PC

Kingston	92 75 PC
Lisbon	91 67 S
London	81 63 PC
Madrid	100 73 S
Mexico City	73 51 SH
Milan	90 68 S
Montreal	75 64 PC
Moscow	76 55 S
Nassau	87 81 PC
New Delhi	89 79 SH
Paris	89 63 PC
Prague	69 57 SH
Rio de Janeiro	71 65 SH
Rome	91 71 PC
Seoul	87 75 SH
Singapore	89 78 SH

Stockholm	75 57 PC
Sydney	64 54 PC
Tel Aviv	89 75 S
Tokyo	94 79 PC
Toronto	78 66 S
Vancouver	82 63 S
Warsaw	76 60 SH

Cooling Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For Jan 1 - July 29	589	473	528

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	29.88 at 8 a.m.	29.81 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	72° at 12 a.m.	57° at 2 p.m.

RISK OF PREDIABETES:
1 IN 3 ADULTS

LIFE DOESN'T ALWAYS GIVE YOU
TIME TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME.
PREDIABETES DOES.

RISK OF SHARK ATTACK:
1 IN 11.5 MILLION

TAKE THE RISK TEST TODAY AT
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CDC CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION


Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

WNBA COMMENTARY

A Connecticut farewell, in Bird fashion



Dom Amore

Sue Bird tried to make like it just another day, another game and another fond farewell as her season of fond farewells winds down.

“She said to the coaches today, she was ‘peaceful,’ and I love that,” Seattle Storm coach Noelle Quinn said. “Knowing that you’re getting your flowers, you’re getting your recognition and you’re going out on your own, there’s something to say about that. But obviously, there’s a little extra juice when you’re back in

Connecticut and have more of the fans cheering for her than probably the Sun at some points.”

Bird, 41, who announced her intention to retire on June 17, came to play the Sun for the last time on Thursday night, at least by the schedule. The Sun and Storm, two of the best teams in the WNBA, could meet in the playoffs, but there would be no time for gifts and ceremonies under those circumstances.

So this was Connecticut’s chance to say farewell to one of its own, and both Bird and the fans, 9,137, were up for the moment. The Mohegan Sun Arena was sold out, the first time for a WNBA game since the pre-pandemic days of 2019.

“It’s pretty special to know that people are looking at their calen-

dars, seeing when I’m coming to town and making the effort,” Bird said. “I look at all of these things as celebrations.”

And Bird, though she scoffed at the notion, appeared to turn back the clock, playing like a kid again. She scored 14 points with seven assists, and the Storm, though they lost 88-83, outscored the Sun by 13 while Bird was in the game.

“If you only knew,” Bird said. “If I were 25 or 26, I would have had 30 tonight. What did I get, six shots off?”

Through her days at UConn, in the WNBA and with USA Basketball, Bird hasn’t lost many games in her life, and certainly not in this state. This one got away in

Turn to Amore, Page 4



Seattle guard Sue Bird reacts to the crowd as she is honored by the Sun before Thursday’s game in Uncasville. Bird has announced she’s retiring at season’s end. **SEAN D. ELLIOT/THE DAY**

UConn FOOTBALL



UConn coach Jim Mora instructs his team as quarterback Ta’Quan Roberson walks on the field at the opening day of UConn’s fall football camp in Storrs on Tuesday. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Who will be top dog?

Mora era begins with quarterback competition front and center

By Joe Arruda
Hartford Courant

STORRS — Tyler Phommachanh handed the ball off to Brian Brewton during the UConn football team’s first day of fall camp Friday. Brewton took it and sprinted to the left side, getting around the line and bursting down the sideline.

“Ooh, ooh, ooh,” quarterback Ty’Quan Roberson said on the sideline, impressed with the sophomore running back’s speed.

Phommachanh later impressed coaches and teammates alike as he thread the needle on several occasions, keeping the ball away from the team’s improved secondary. He even made a defensive back fall after hitting his receiver in stride at the start of the day.

Roberson and Phommachanh are the front-runners in the quarterback competition that excites first-year head coach Jim Mora.

Roberson, who joined the Huskies last spring after transfer-

ring from Penn State, impressed and earned first-team reps to start the fall, but Phommachanh, who started three games for UConn in 2021, was out recovering from the injury that ended his season.

The race is wide open.

“I really like our five quarterbacks as people and as players. I think they have the right mindset, the right attitude, the right work ethic and I’m excited to see how that competition goes,” Mora said after practice. “My eyes had

never seen Tyler (Phommachanh) play full speed. He caught my eye. I’m like, ‘Okay, I see why this kid was a starter last year.’ It made sense to me today, and I hadn’t seen that before. Now I want to see him continue.”

A loss at placekicker: The season is just under a month away, but UConn has already suffered from some unfortunate news. Joe McFadden, the team’s placekicker who played all 12

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

YANKEES

Severino’s injury adds pressure to rotation

No timeline for return for right-hander, who’s been out since July 14

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Luis Severino was on the field Friday, but the Yankees right-hander was nowhere near a mound yet. Severino, who was placed on the injured list July 14 with a strained lat muscle, was in the outfield, trying to clear the last few hurdles before he can begin his throwing program.

“He’s doing well. I think right now, if everything goes according to plan in the next couple of days, the plan is for him to start throwing on Monday,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said before Friday’s game against the Royals at the Stadium.

While Boone would not give a timeline for Severino’s expected return, realistically he is weeks away from starting in a major league game again. That just emphasizes the Bombers need to make a deal for starting pitching before Tuesday’s MLB trade deadline. The Yankees have been aggressive in going after Luis Castillo, but so has every other contending team in need of pitching. A source in Tampa said the Reds have had scouts around their minor league teams for the last week. The 29-year old Castillo will come with a heavy prospect price tag, as he should for his 1.071 WHIP and 90 strikeouts over 85 innings pitched.

The Yankees also have a scout heading to Chicago this weekend. The A’s are expected to start Frankie Montas in this series, but the Yankees will also be looking at right-hander Paul Blackburn, who is scheduled to throw for the A’s on Saturday. Montas, 29, is also drawing heavy interest from contenders with a 1.127 WHIP and 109 strike-

Turn to Yankees, Page 2

PATRIOTS

Tight end Smith poised for bounce back season

By Kyle Hightower
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Jonnu Smith wasn’t looking for a fresh start as much as a place to burnish his reputation as one of the league’s top tight ends when he left the Tennessee Titans and signed with the New England Patriots prior to last season.

He was coming off a career year in Tennessee and was one of the most sought-after names available on the open market. The Patriots were in search of an upgrade at the position and ended up investing \$87.5 million dollars to lure

both Smith and former Chargers standout Hunter Henry to New England.

The idea was to recreate a version of the Rob Gronkowski-led two-pronged tight end attack the Patriots enjoyed during Tom Brady’s title-filled tenure.

New England got a partial return on its investment in 2021, with Henry recovering from a slow start to post 50 catches for a team- and career-high nine touchdown receptions. Smith struggled to find rhythm and managed 28 catches for 295 yards and a career-

Turn to Patriots, Page 4



Patriots tight end Jonnu Smith takes part in drills at the team’s practice facility in Foxborough, Mass. on May 23. **STEVEN SENNE/AP**

GIANTS

No stretch to envision a backup plan at QB

By Pat Leonard
New York Daily News

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Brian Daboll has a lot to think about.

The rookie head coach is only three practices into his first Giants training camp, but Daniel Jones’ first-string offense was a mess on Friday.

Quickly it seems inevitable that at some point Daboll may need to see what his first-string offense looks like with Tyrod Taylor under center instead. Or maybe the Giants actually would entertain a trade for the San

Francisco 49ers’ Jimmy Garoppolo after all.

Not that the first three days are all on Jones. Far from it.

Center Jon Feliciano’s absence on Friday, for example, produced a bad shotgun snap from fill-in Jamil Douglas that killed the third play from scrimmage with a fumble. The offense had a substitution issue on another play.

The defensive line dominated the offensive front, too, with Feliciano sidelined by what Daboll called heat and hydration issues.

Turn to Giants, Page 4

SPORTS

UP NEXT

Patriots: Preseason: Giants, August 11, 7 p.m.
Giants: Preseason: at Patriots, August 11, 7 p.m.
Jets: Preseason: at Eagles, August 12, 7:30 p.m.
Red Sox: Brewers, Saturday, 4 p.m.; Brewers, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; at Astros, Monday, 8 p.m.
Yankees: Royals, Saturday, 2 p.m.; Royals, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; Mariners, Monday, 7 p.m.
Mets: at Marlins, Saturday, 6 p.m.; at Marlins, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; at Nationals, Monday, 7 p.m.
Yard Goats: Portland, Saturday, 6 p.m.; Portland, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Reading, Tuesday, 11 a.m.
Sun: Sky, Sunday, 1 p.m.; Mercury, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Mercury, Thursday, 7 p.m.
Hartford Athletic: Birmingham, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Memphis, August 6, 8:30 p.m.; Indy, August 13, 7 p.m.

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Local amateur baseball
AMERICAN LEGION
FRIDAY'S RESULT
CT Legion Tournament
State **Championship**—Best-of-3
At Palmer Field, Middletown
Game 1
Danbury vs. Waterford, late
SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE
CT Legion Tournament
State **Championship**—Best-of-3
At Palmer Field, Middletown
Game 2
Danbury vs. Waterford, 1p.m.
Game 3(if necessary)
Danbury vs. Waterford, following Game 2
CONNECTICUT TWILIGHT LEAGUE
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS
Rockies 5, Angels 1
Note: Anthony Allicki tossed a complete game with 65strikeouts. Will Ramos was 3-for-3with a 3-run home, 5RBI.
Black Sox 15, Patriots 0

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Dodgers at Knights, late
Rockies at Rock Cats, late
Orioles at Aftershock, late
MONDAY'S SCHEDULE
Rockies at Aftershock, 8p.m.
GREATER HARTFORD TWILIGHT LEAGUE
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT
Expos 8, Colts 6
FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Phillies at People's, late
Greeners at Graphics, late
SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE
Greeners at Orioles, 5p.m.
Colts at Phillies, 5:30p.m.

PETE KOKINIS BASEBALL LEAGUE

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS
PKBL Playoffs
19u—Semifinals
New Britain Parks and Rec 6, Rocky Hill 5
Note: Will Estronza (4-for-4) had the go-ahead RBI single in the top of the 6th. He also picked up the win in relief, allowing no runs on 4hits over 5.2innings with 3strikeouts. 1walk. Nick Aderhold had 2RBI for Rocky Hill.
Copperheads-Torrington 4, Ahern Whalen-Middletown 3(8)
SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE
PKBL Playoffs (at New Britain Stadium)
16u—Championship
West Hartford Thunder vs. Stafford Royals, 4 p.m.
14u—Championship
CT Bulldogs-Wethersfield vs. Farmington, 1p.m.
SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE
PKBL Playoffs (at New Britain Stadium)
19u—Championship
New Britain Parks and Rec vs. Copperheads-Torrington, 5p.m.
Eastern League standings
Northeast: W; L; PCT: GB
Somerset: 59; 34; .634; —
Hartford: 57; 35; .620; 1.5
Portland: 46; 47; .495; 13



The Yankees' Luis Severino pitches during the first inning of a game against the Cincinnati Reds on July 13 in New York. **FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP**

Yankees

from Page 1

outs over 104.2 innings pitched. Blackburn, 23, has not yet hit arbitration. He has a 4.35 ERA with 82 strikeouts over 101.1 innings pitched. He fits the Yankees profile for under-the-radar pitchers who throw a sinker (34% of the time) that they feel they can help develop — like Clay Holmes.

While the Yankees got six solid innings from Jameson Taillon on Thursday night, his last month of starts has been concerning; allowing 23 earned runs in 9.2 innings pitched. Domingo Germán has allowed seven earned runs in 7.2 innings pitched with nine strikeouts in his first two starts of the season in Severino's spot.

The Yankees do have some young arms that could step in and play a role down the stretch as well. Clarke Schmidt and JP Sears have already made contributions. Ken Waldichuk, who is drawing interest from other teams, could also be a contributor if he isn't used in a deal.

Changing roles: The writing was on the wall long before the Yankees pulled the trigger on the deal that brought Andrew Benintendi to the

Bronx. Joey Gallo's time with the Yankees is running out. He knows it.

Boone has to try and manage his team and manage expectations and bruised egos.

"I think our first goal, and I think everyone shares it in there, is a team goal of winning it all. So sometimes that means a diminished role here and there just when personnel changes, but it also is a situation that can create some, hopefully healthy, competition and hopefully that brings out the best of our people," Boone said. "I really feel like going into the final two months of the season and the dog days, especially, hopefully, it allows some more rotations to where you can keep them sharp and a little fresher. Throughout the season, and then what we hope is running into the playoff."

The Yankees have made it clear to teams that Gallo is available for a trade.

Donaldson drought: Josh Donaldson went into Friday night's game on a 1-for-15 slide with five strikeouts and a walk. The 36-year old Donaldson is hitting .223/.305/.387 with a .692 OPS. It's not exactly what the Yankees were expecting from the former American League MVP.

RED SOX

Are these the last days of Martinez with the Sox?

By Alex Speier
Boston Globe

BOSTON — Xander Bogaerts sought and received reassurance that he will remain with the Red Sox beyond the trade deadline. The same cannot be said of J.D. Martinez.

Martinez gets the drill. Unlike Bogaerts, who has spent his entire professional career (nearly 13 years) in one organization, the 34-year-old Martinez has seen the other side of the industry. He was released by the Astros in the spring of 2014, traded by the Tigers to the Diamondbacks as a free-agent-to-be in 2017, signed with the Red Sox in the spring of 2018, and has spent time in each of the last three offseasons deciding whether it made sense to opt out of his contract.

Given that reality, he considers being traded before this year's deadline a possibility — and even a likelihood, particularly if the Red Sox don't reverse their considerable slide.

"I've been in this game too long," Martinez said about whether he'd sought clarity from the front office. "The Red Sox are a first-class organization, but the industry in total, it's a business. At the end of the day, it's a business and everyone's going to treat it that way. So I don't get involved in that. I kind of just focus on what I can control, who I'm facing on the mound.

Does Martinez believe he'll be with the Red Sox after Tuesday?

"Not if we don't start winning. That's about as simple as I can put it," Martinez said Thursday prior to his team's 4-2 win over Cleveland. "I would understand it. I wouldn't be upset about it. Of course I want to be here, stay here. I'm a lot more comfortable here. I



Red Sox designated hitter J.D. Martinez, who has been with the team since 2018, celebrates his game tying two-run home run in the fifth inning against the Yankees at Fenway Park on July 10. **NANCY LANE/BOSTON HERALD**

would prefer the club wins today, starts a winning streak, and makes it real hard on them."

Even a winning streak might not be enough to prevent Martinez from being dealt. According to industry sources, there is a good likelihood that the Red Sox will deal Martinez — who is in the final season of a five-year, \$110 million deal — regardless of their performance leading up to the deadline.

One American League executive opined that Martinez is "as good as gone," even if Boston remains in the thick of the wild-card race.

What would be the logic of dealing Martinez if they hope to contend?

He has provided solid but unspectacular production this year, hitting .293/.361/.466 with nine homers and 30 doubles in 82 games — good enough to earn his fourth All-Star nod in five years with the Sox, but not the same power threat he's been in prior

years.

"I do believe that the first few months of the season, regardless of what people think of our numbers, it was kind of like the best version I'd seen of him, hitting the ball consistently on a nightly basis," said Sox manager Alex Cora. "At the end, the OPS is always there, it's always been."

"He was doing it a different way, hitting doubles, hitting rockets to right field. His swing decisions at one point during the season, they were on point, and then he got off. I think he was just trying to create [power] or it was just part of the season."

"But I think overall, regardless of the homers, he was really, really good for for two months, two months and a half. He's been really good for us."

Yet Martinez has struggled to regain his timing since his return from a back injury that sidelined him the first four days after the All-Star break, going 0 for 10 with two walks in the last three games.

"Seven days with the back thing kind of messed up my timing," said Martinez. "[After] the All-Star break, it couldn't have been a worse time to take another four days."

Meanwhile, his inability to play the field — he has not worn a glove in a game this year — has been a roster limitation, particularly with the Sox managing the health of players such as Devers and Bogaerts while trying to keep them in the lineup.

If the Sox traded Martinez and acquired a player who could help in the field, they could use the DH spot to manage the playing time of their overall roster. In that sense, Martinez may be in a different category than other free-agents-to-be such as Nate Eovaldi and Christian Vázquez.

METS

Naquin trade is a minor move

By Matthew Roberson
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — While they still have a few more days until the Tuesday trade deadline, thus far the Mets have made moves to give themselves little micro-advantages rather than springing for any of the best available options.

Last week there was the acquisition of Daniel Vogelbach, a guy whose extreme splits mean he will only be seen against right-handed pitching. The move they made late Thursday night is similarly aimed at eliminating weaknesses rather than creating a strength.

The Mets traded two minor-leaguers to Cincinnati for outfielder Tyler Naquin and left-handed reliever Phillip Diehl.

The deal is really about Naquin, though, who hit .246/.305/.444 in 56 games for the Reds this year. More importantly, as the Mets look to create platoon edges wherever they can, the left-handed Naquin is hitting .264/.333/.472 off righties.

What this move mainly does is protect Eduardo Escobar

from having to hit those scary right-handers. Escobar has been dreadful against that group, who flip him around to his less-potent left-handed batting stance.

Naquin will prevent Jeff McNeil from having to play the outfield as often, instead holding down second base against righties while Luis Guillorme handles third base. In 259 plate appearances against righties this year, Escobar has only managed a .200 batting average and .590 OPS, which is a problem considering most of the pitchers in the league use their right hand.

Now the Mets can swap out Escobar — who, against righties, is 28% worse than the average hitter by wRC+ — for Naquin, who is 17% better than league average in that situation.

With their sights set on something much greater than regular-season wins, the Mets now also have the luxury of providing their outfielders with some more regular rest. Brandon Nimmo, Starling Marte, McNeil and Mark Canha are all in the top 25 of plate appearances by National League outfielders.

The weather certainly isn't

going to get any cooler in August, and one or two days a month in the shady dugout rather than the sweltering outfield grass isn't the worst idea in the world.

As for the specifics, Naquin was playing on a one-year deal with Cincinnati and will hit unrestricted free agency at the end of the year, hence his availability. This is his seventh year in the league after being selected with the 15th overall pick in the 2012 draft, one ahead of Lucas Giolito and two before Corey Seager.

Naquin spent the first five years of his career in Cleveland and finished third in American League Rookie of the Year voting in 2016, the same year he played in five of the team's seven World Series games. For his career, he's played almost the same amount of games in center field (1,633 innings) as right (1,611), which was his primary post for the Reds.

Diehl, meanwhile, put up great strikeout numbers for the Reds' Triple-A team but has bricked each of his limited big-league chances. In 23 ⅓ innings for the Louisville Bats this season, the 28-year-old Diehl posted a 30.6% strikeout rate.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP LATE THURSDAY

Red Sox vets help Sea Dogs to 10-5 win over Yard Goats

Staff and wire reports

HARTFORD — Dunkin' Donuts Park was transformed into Fenway South for a night with the Portland Sea Dogs, Double-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, dropping three big leaguers on rehab assignments into their lineup.

The result was a 10-5 Portland win in an Eastern League Northeast Division game in Hartford. Major-league veteran Rich Hill started, went three innings and allowed a run on four hits with five strikeouts, throwing 56 pitches. Red Sox reliever Matt Barnes then followed with an inning of shutout relief to earn the win. Christian Arroyo, another rehabbing Boston player, had one hit in three at-bats with an RBI. Former UConn star Jacob Wallace also pitched an inning in relief for the Sea Dogs.

Isaac Collins, Daniel Cope and Tyler Hill each hit solo home runs for Hartford (57-35). Tony Locy

(0-2) was the starter and loser, allowing six runs on eight hits in 3 ⅓ innings. Christian Koss had three hits and two runs scored for the Sea Dogs.

Red Sox 4, Guardians 2: At Boston, Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and Boston won for just the fifth time in 20 games.

Guardians starter Triston McKenzie, who had allowed one run total in four previous July starts, took a one-hit shut-out into the sixth before putting two on with one out for Bogaerts. The Red Sox shortstop hit an 0-2 slider out to center field to turn a one-run deficit into a 3-1 lead.

Boston scored another off McKenzie, who hadn't allowed an extra-base hit all month, when Franchy Cordero led off the seventh with a double and scored on Bobby Dalbec's hard line drive off the Green Monster.

In all, McKenzie (7-7) allowed six hits and walked one in seven

innings in his first loss since June 27. He was 3-0 with a sparkling 0.34 ERA over his previous four starts.

Yankees 1, Royals 0: Aaron Judge hit his third walk-off homer this year, his major league-leading 39th home run of the season, to lift New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium.

New York was held to one hit before Judge drove a first-pitch fastball from Scott Barlow (4-3) into the Kansas City bullpen with one out in the ninth, a 431-foot drive that gave the Yankees their 12th walk-off win this season.

Judge sent the crowd of 43,836 into a frenzy, joining Mickey Mantle as the only Yankees with three walk-off home runs in one season. Tommy Henrich had two in 1949 plus another off Brooklyn's Don Newcombe in the World Series opener.

Barlow walked off with his head down as Judge's teammates mobbed him at home plate.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
New York	67	33	.670	—	—	5-5	W-1	38-12	29-21
Toronto	55	44	.556	11 ½	—	8-2	W-1	32-20	23-24
Tampa Bay	53	46	.535	13 ½	—	4-6	L-1	31-18	22-28
Baltimore	50	49	.505	16 ½	3	5-5	W-1	29-20	21-29
Boston	50	50	.500	17	3 ½	3-7	W-1	25-25	25-25

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Minnesota	52	46	.531	—	—	4-6	L-2	27-22	25-24
Cleveland	50	48	.510	2	2 ½	6-4	L-1	25-19	25-29
Chicago	49	49	.500	3	3 ½	6-4	L-1	21-27	28-22
Detroit	40	60	.400	13	13 ½	3-7	L-1	25-27	15-33
Kansas City	39	60	.394	13 ½	14	3-7	L-3	22-30	17-30

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Houston	65	35	.650	—	—	6-4	W-1	31-14	34-21
Seattle	54	46	.540	11	+ ½	6-4	L-1	27-23	27-23
Texas	44	54	.449	20	8 ½	3-7	W-1	21-26	23-28
Los Angeles	42	57	.424	22 ½	11	3-7	L-1	22-28	20-29
Oakland	38	63	.376	27 ½	16	7-3	W-3	17-33	21-30

BOX SCORES

LATE THURSDAY: BOSTON 4, CLEVELAND 2

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Kwan If	4	0	1	0	0	.293
Rosario ss	4	0	0	0	1	.293
Ramirez 3b	4	1	1	1	0	.285
Naylor 1b	4	0	2	0	0	.282
Gimenez 2b	3	0	0	0	1	.296
Reyes dh	4	0	0	0	1	.216
Jones rf	3	0	0	0	1	.288
Maile c	2	1	0	0	1	.188
Straw cf	3	0	1	0	0	.220
TOTALS	31	2	5	1	5	
Boston	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Duran cf	4	1	0	0	1	.237
Verdugo lf	4	1	2	0	0	.267
Bogaerts ss	2	1	1	3	1	.313
Martinez dh	3	0	0	0	0	.293
Vazquez c	4	0	0	0	1	.277
Cordero 1b	3	1	1	0	0	.221
Sanchez 2b	0	0	0	0	0	.111
Dalbec 3b-1b	3	0	1	1	0	.207
Bradley Jr. rf	3	0	0	0	0	.208
Downs 2b-3b	3	0	1	0	1	.154
TOTALS	29	4	6	4	7	

LOB: Cleveland 4, Boston 4.
2B: Ramirez (217), Cordero (16).
HR: Ramirez (20), off Crawford;
 Bogaerts (8), off McKenzie.
RBIs: Ramirez (80), Bogaerts 3 (42), Dalbec (29).
SB: Gimenez (8), Bogaerts 2 (7).
Runners left in scoring position: Cleveland 4 (Reyes 2, Jones, Naylor); Boston 1 (Vazquez). **RISP:** Cleveland 0 for 8; Boston 2 for 3. **Runners moved up:** Reyes, Ramirez, Kwan, Gimenez.
GDP: Kwan, Bradley Jr..
DP: Cleveland 1 (Gimenez, Naylor); Boston 1 (Bogaerts, Cordero).

CLEVELAND	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
McKenzie, L 7-7	7	6	4	4	1	6	3.24
Karinchak	1	0	0	0	2	1	2.79
BOSTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Crawford	5 ⅓	3	1	1	0	2	4.15
Whitlock, W 5-1	1 ⅓	0	0	0	0	2	4.03
Whitlock, S 3-4	2	2	1	1	0	1	3.18
Pitches-Strikes: McKenzie 91-61; Karin-chak 19-7; Crawford 69-49; Diekmann 22-14; Whitlock 27-15.							
Ground Balls-Fly Balls: McKenzie 7-6; Karin-chak 10-4; Crawford 4-4; Diekmann 2-0; Whitlock 3-1.							
Batters Faced: McKenzie 27; Karin-chak 5; Crawford 21; McKenzie 4; Whitlock 8.							
Inherited runners-scored: Diekmann 1-0.							
HBP: Crawford (Gimenez).							
Umpires: Home, Scott Barry; First, Dan Iassogna; Second, Marty Foster; Third, Ben May. T: 2:33. A: 32,122(37,755).							

LATE THURSDAY: HOUSTON 4, SEATTLE 2

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Rodriguez cf	3	0	0	0	1	.272
France 1b	3	0	1	0	0	.310
Santana dh	4	0	0	1	0	.203
Suarez 3b	4	0	0	0	1	.231
Crawford ss	4	0	2	0	0	.270
Raleigh c	4	0	1	0	2	.211
Winker lf	3	0	0	0	1	.223
Frazier 2b	3	1	1	0	0	.240
Moore rf	1	1	0	0	0	.197
a-Lewis ph	1	0	0	0	0	.207
Haggerty rf	0	0	0	0	0	.303
TOTALS	30	2	5	2	5	
Houston	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Altuve 2b	4	0	1	0	1	.272
Gurriel 1b	3	1	1	0	0	.238
Alvarez dh	3	1	1	0	1	.309
Bregman 3b	4	2	2	3	1	.241
Tucker rf	4	0	0	0	0	.245
Pena ss	3	0	0	0	1	.262
McCormick lf	3	0	1	0	2	.231
Meyers cf	3	0	0	0	1	.226
Maldonado c	3	0	0	0	1	.170
TOTALS	30	4	6	3	8	

a-popped out for Moore in the 8th.
E: Raleigh (4). **LOB:** Seattle 4, Houston 5.
2B: Crawford (19), Raleigh (12), Alvarez (14), Altuve (18), Bregman (23).
HR: Bregman (13), off Gilbert.
RBIs: France (52), Santana (33), Bregman 3 (52). **SB:** Gurriel (6). **SF:** France.
Runners left in scoring position: Seattle 3 (Suarez, Frazier, Winker); Houston 2 (Meyers, Bregman).
RISP: Seattle 0 for 6; Houston 2 for 6.
Runners moved up: Santana, Gurriel, Tucker.
GIDP: Santana. **DP:** Houston 1 (Altuve, Bregman, Gurriel).

SEATTLE	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Gilbert	6	5	2	2	2	6	2.78
Murfee	1	0	0	0	0	1	2.36
Munoz, L, 1-4	1	2	2	0	0	1	3.10
HOUSTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Urquidy	6⅓	4	2	2	2	3	3.86
Montero, W, 4-1	1⅓	0	0	0	0	0	1.76
Presly, S 21-24	1	1	0	0	0	2	2.70
Pitches-Strikes: Gilbert 98-62; Murfee 5-8; Munoz 25-16; Urquidy 106-65; Montero 11-5; Presly 20-12.							
Ground Balls-Fly Balls: Gilbert 9-3; Murfee 0-2; Munoz 2-1; rquidy 7-9; Montero 2-0; Presly 1-0.							
Batters Faced: Gilbert 25; Murfee 3; Munoz 5; Urquidy 25; Montero 4; Presly 4.							
Inherited runners-scored: Montero 1-0.							
HBP: Munoz (Gurriel). WP: Munoz.							
Umpires: Home, Lance Barksdale; First, Nic Lentz; Second, Nestor Ceja; Third, Ted Barrett. Time: 2:51. A: 29,799 (41,168).							

THIS DATE IN BASEBALL

1917: Ty Cobb, Bobby Veach and Ossie Vitt, each went 5-for-5 in Detroit's 16-4 romp over Washington.
1933: Dizzy Dean struck out 17 Cubs for the St. Louis Cardinals, who beat Chicago 8-2.
1947: The New York Giants defeated Ewell Blackwell and the Cincinnati Reds 5-4 in 10 innings, ending Blackwell's 16-game winning streak.
1959: Willie McCovey had four hits in four at-bats in his major league debut, with the San Francisco Giants. His hits included two triples in a 7-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.
1962: The American League, led by homers from Leon Wagner, Pete Runnels and Rocky Colavito, powered past the Los Angeles 9-4, in the second All-Star Game of the year. Wagner of the Angels was named MVP.
1968: Washington shortstop Ron Hansen pulled off an unassisted triple play, but the Cleveland Indians still won the game 10-1.
1969: Houston, behind grand slams by Denis Menke and Jim Wynn, scored 11 runs in the ninth inning to pound the New York Mets 16-3 in a doubleheader opener at Shea Stadium. Mets pitchers Cal Koonce and Ron Taylor gave up

LATE THURSDAY: N.Y. YANKEES 1, KANSAS CITY 0

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Melendez c	3	0	2	0	1	.233
Merrifield 2b	4	0	0	0	2	.240
Pasquantino dh	4	0	1	0	0	.213
Dozier 3b-rf	4	0	0	0	1	.261
O'Hearn rf	2	0	0	0	1	.202
1-Lopez pr-3b	0	0	0	0	0	.244
Taylor cf	4	0	0	0	3	.275
Pratto 1b	3	0	1	0	1	.242
Garcia ss	4	0	0	0	1	.000
Isbel lf	3	0	0	0	2	.216
TOTALS	31	0	4	0	12	
NY Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Benintendi lf	4	0	0	0	1	.316
Judge dh	3	1	1	1	2	.293
Rizzo 1b	2	0	0	0	1	.222
Torres 2b	3	0	1	0	0	.263
Hicks cf	3	0	0	0	0	.240
Donaldson 3b	0	0	0	0	1	.223
Gallo rf	3	0	0	0	3	.159
Gonzalez ss	2	0	0	0	1	.222
a-Carpenter ph1	0	0	0	0	1	.304
Kiner-Falefa ss	0	0	0	0	0	.275
Trevino c	3	0	0	0	2	.258
TOTALS	27	1	2	1	12	

Kansas City 000 000 000 — 0 4 0
N.Y. Yankees 000 000 001 — 1 2 1

One out when winning run scored, a-struck out for Gonzalez in the 8th. 1-ran for O'Hearn in the 9th.
E: Torres (8). **LOB:** Kansas City 8, New York 3. **2B:** Melendez (13).
3B: Pratto (1).
HR: Judge (39), off Barlow.
RBIs: Judge (83). **SB:** Judge (10).
Runners left in scoring position: Kansas City 4 (Garcia, Isbel, O'Hearn, Dozier); New York 2 (Hicks, Torres).
RISP: Kansas City 0 for 8; New York 0 for 3.
GIDP: Dozier. **DP:** New York 1 (Gonzalez, Torres, Rizzo).

KANSAS CITY	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Singer	7	1	0	0	1	10	3.51
Coleman	1	0	0	0	0	2	2.83
Barlow, L 4-3	⅓	1	1	0	0	0	2.11
NY YANKEES	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Tailion	6	4	0	0	2	8	3.72
Marinaccio	2	0	0	0	0	3	1.96
Holmes, W 5-1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1.20
Pitches-Strikes: Singer 99-63; Coleman 15-10; Barlow 5-4; Tailion 98-60; Marinaccio 30-20; Holmes 18-8.							
Batters Faced: Singer 24; Coleman 3; Barlow 2; Tailion 24; Marinaccio 6; Holmes 5.							
HBP: Singer (Rizzo). PB: Melendez (5).							
Umpires: Home, Ramon De Jesus; First, Chris Guccione; Second, Jordan Baker; Third, Mark Carlson.							
Time: 2:38. A: 43,836(47,309).							

LATE THURSDAY: L.A. DODGERS 13, COLORADO 0

LA Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Anderson p-p	0	0	0	0	0	---
Betts rf-2b	6	2	2	0	0	.269
TTurner ss	4	3	3	0	0	.312
Turner rf	2	0	0	0	1	.261
Freeman 1b	3	2	1	2	0	.323
Reed p	0	0	0	0	0	---
Alberto p	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Smith c	5	1	2	3	1	.258
Lamb dh-1b	5	0	1	0	3	.222
Lux 2b-ss	5	1	3	1	0	.307
Muncy 3b	5	1	1	0	1	.158
Bellinger cf	4	1	1	2	2	.205
McKinsty lf	3	2	0	0	0	.091
TOTALS	42	13	14	11	8	
Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
a-Serven p-ph	1	0	0	0	0	.232
Joe 1b	4	0	0	0	0	.254
Iglesias ss	3	0	0	0	0	.299
Hampson ss	1	0	0	0	0	.250
Bryant lf	2	0	1	0	0	.307
Hilliard lf	1	0	0	0	0	.180
Cron dh	3	0	0	0	2	.283
Rodgers 2b	4	0	0	0	0	.273
Grichuk rf	4	0	1	0	2	.249
Diaz c	4	0	0	0	0	.239
McMahon 3b	3	0	0	0	0	.236
Daza cf	3	0	1	0	0	.295
TOTALS	33	0	7	0	4	

L.A. Dodgers 240 500 200 —13 14 0
Colorado 000 000 000 — 0 7 3
 a-flied out for Cron in the 9th.
E: Diaz (8), Joe (2), Urena ().
LOB: Los Angeles 7, Colorado 8.
2B: TTurner (27), Smith (15), Bellinger (15), Lux (15), Freeman (33), Bryant (12).
RBIs: TTurner 3 (72), Smith 3 (50), Lux (29), Bellinger 2 (38), Freeman 2 (65).
Runners left in scoring position: Los Angeles 6 (Smith, McKinsty, Bellinger, Lux 2, Muncy); Colorado 3 (McMahon, Hilliard, Diaz). **RISP:** Los Angeles 6 for 20; Colorado 1 for 9.
Runners moved up: Muncy, Joe.
GIDP: Betts, Diaz. **DP:** Los Angeles 1 (Muncy, Betts, Lamb); Colorado 1 (Rodgers, Joe).

LA DODGERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Anderson, W, 11-1	7	4	0	0	0	4	2.61
Reed	1	1	0	0	1	0	9.35
Alberto	1	2	0	0	0	0	0.00

SPORTS

JETS

Saleh still not ready to declare Gardner a starter

By Stefan Bondy
New York Daily News

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — He’s the fourth overall pick, the reward for losing 13 games last season, so the assumption is Ahmad “Sauce” Gardner will be the starting cornerback in Week 1 against the Ravens.

But coach Robert Saleh was again unwilling to make that declaration in training camp — just as he didn’t two months ago during OTAs — saying Friday that the 21-year-old rookie has much to prove about his NFL readiness.

“He is a rookie, [so] there’s a lot of things,” Saleh said. “You still want to see him in pads. You still want to see him when the back hits in the corner. First [regular-season] game against Baltimore, they’re not going to be shy with four corner and contact.

“So there’s a lot of things we got to see that are different from the college game, where it’s more spread out, throw the ball all over the place. This is a lot more condensed, where offenses seek corners in the run game. So there’s

a lot of things we have to see before we could declare it.”

Saleh said Gardner and Bryce Hall, 24, have been splitting reps at left corner ahead of the preseason opener Aug. 12 in Philadelphia. Quincy Williams is projected to start on the right side.

What does Gardner have to demonstrate to earn the nod?

“That’s a good question,” Saleh said. “I think it’s one of those, you know when you’ll know. But him and Bryce are alternating days and reps in terms of getting feel for going against different receivers.

“They’re both getting those opportunities and doing a good job competing and helping one another out. He’s doing a good job and we’ll know when we know.”

Despite Saleh’s hesitancy, it’s hard to believe Gardner would begin the season on the bench. The investment from Joe Douglas — a four-year, \$33.5 million guaranteed deal — is too much.

Speaking of defense: The Jets added a backup linebacker in Kwon Alexander, a 27-year-old who is familiar with Saleh’s system as a former member of the 49ers.

Saleh said Alexander had options before accepting the Jets’ offer.

“We’ll see where he’s at,” Saleh said. “Obviously he wasn’t here for OTAs. So we’ll work him out the next two days and see where he’s at and set a schedule for him next week.

“But no expectation except to do what he always does, which is to bring a lot of juice, lot of energy. He plays his absolute tail off.”

Contract talk: George Fant, the starting left tackle with one year left on his deal, said he wasn’t going to get into his negotiations for a new deal but offered some thoughts.

“I just want to be taken care of,” he said, “and that’s about it.”

Fant’s bank account was probably boosted by the Jets’ decision to keep him at left tackle and move Mekhi Becton to the other side. Historically, left tackle is the more lucrative position.

It was a somewhat surprising move since Becton was the 11th overall pick just two years ago, but injuries and fitness issues led to an underwhelming first two seasons.

Huskies

from Page 1

games in 2021, got his foot stuck in the grass during the team’s last offseason workout and tore the ACL in his kicking leg.

He had successful surgery at noon Friday but will be out for the season, Mora said.

“Obviously that’s a big blow. He’s an outstanding kicker. He’s also a guy that would be a backup punter for us. He’s a team leader. He’s someone our players really respect. He’s dependable. And we just wish him a speedy recovery. I know that he will continue to have an influence on this team even though he can’t do it on the field,” Mora said.

Noe Ruelas, a sophomore from Hall High in West Hartford, will replace McFadden. Ruelas broke the state high school record for longest field goal when he nailed one from 56 yards out in September 2019.

“We have a lot of confidence

in Noe to go in and kick for Joe,” Mora said. “In talking to (special teams coordinator) Doug Shearer through spring it was, ‘You know, we’ve got two really good kickers.’ And so, the next man’s up. We wish Joe the best and feel really awful about it, however we’re excited about Noe.”

A different experience: Linebacker Jackson Mitchell has been one of the few bright spots on the UConn defense for the last two seasons.

“It’s definitely been a different experience (than year’s past) I would say just because of what it was like when I first got here and what it’s like now. It’s definitely felt like a revolution,” Mitchell said. “Everything has pretty much switched up and turned around even when it comes to the building, to the team, the coaches and all that type of stuff. It’s definitely been exciting and definitely motivating as well.”

“It’s given a new hope, I would say.”

Mitchell, a known leader for the Huskies, attributed some of

his hope to the dedication of his teammates. Over the summer, guys were consistently getting in extra work and holding each other accountable, according to Mitchell.

A multidimensional offense: UConn’s offense was near the bottom of the FBS in nearly every statistic in 2021. Now, the offense has been completely revamped under new offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Nick Charlton.

First-string running back Nate Carter built his body over the summer to adapt to it.

“Looking back at last year, one of the things I wanted to improve on is being more durable,” Carter said. “Putting on that muscle, putting on that body fat so I can be able to take more hits and have more longevity throughout the season so I can be able to go out and perform to the highest potential I possibly can each and every game.

“I believe that we’re going to run the football a lot, but also pass the football a lot.”

Patriots

from Page 1

low one TD catch.

Smith said Friday that he believes having a full year in the system under his belt will help him in Year 2. Despite the rough season he also hasn’t lost his zeal for the franchise that signed him to a four-year, \$50 million deal.

“With experience and time, a lot of things just come more natural,” Smith said. “That’s just life in general. It’s only just my second year here. I know people more and I’m just adapting more. It’s great to be a Patriot.”

After being targeted five or more times in his first seven games in 2021, Smith seemed to struggle at times to adjust to the Patriots’ offensive system.

He was targeted an average of only 1.6 times in the final nine games he played in, relegated to

mostly run blocking duties in the second half of the season.

Improving his chemistry with Mac Jones was a priority this offseason and he made it a point to attend a throwing session the quarterback organized in April that included receivers Nelson Agholor and Tre Nixon, along with running back Damien Harris.

“That’s what we had an off-season for,” Smith said. “That’s where that comes, with time. Just learning each other, knowing each other. We all have to continue to be on the same page — wide receivers, tight ends, running backs — whatever it may be. ... We all kind of know what we’re thinking in each other’s heads. Just continue to help the team and put us in a better situation for winning.”

One thing that could benefit the entire offense is what players have been describing as a more streamlined offense from top to bottom.

The coaching staff has also experimented with placing Smith in different spots during the opening week of camp.

Smith said it’s an example of how he’s willing to adapt in whatever ways he is asked.

“I don’t care where they put me,” he said. “That’s always been my M.O. I’m a team guy and whatever the team needs to win, that’s what I’ll do.”

It’s why he’s not putting extra pressure or expectations on himself.

He’s concentrating instead on what he did to garner the Patriots’ interest in the first place.

“I got here by just loving football. Loving my teammates. Loving the guys around me,” Smith said. “All that stuff just comes with it. We didn’t grow up playing in our backyard thinking about contracts. We just played because we love the game. ... Everything else will take care of itself.”

Giants

from Page 1

Defensive lineman Dexter Lawrence was a human wrecking ball, beating right guard Mark Glowinski for a sack on one of his many pressures. Kayvon Thibodeaux got past right tackle Evan Neal for a sack in a face-off of top-10 rookie draft picks.

Leonard Williams drew a hold on Douglas. And inside linebacker Tae Crowder came in free for a sack on a blitz.

Rookie receiver Wan’Dale Robinson also dropped a contested pass over the middle, and Kadarius Toney appeared to create one incompletion because he ran the wrong route.

Toney smacked himself in the helmet after the ball hit the ground, similar to when he’d made a route-running mistake during drills 15 minutes earlier.

Jones also threw a pick-six to opportunistic slot corner Darnay Holmes on a short, telegraphed pass intended for Robinson, though. The fourth-year quarterback was inaccurate on a couple throws on the move.

And frankly, Taylor looks very good.

The 12th-year veteran throws an extremely catchable ball. He pushes the ball down the field frequently. He makes poised checkdowns to running backs when the deep shots aren’t there.

His first three plays running the second-team offense featured a checkdown completion to running back Matt Breida, an incomplete deep shot for C.J. Board that the receiver should have caught, and an intermediate strike to Alex Bachman.

Taylor, 32, was not made available to the media, despite being requested, as he underwent his post-practice recovery regimen.

Obviously, and ideally, Daboll and GM Joe Schoen would be able to give Jones a fairly long leash to grasp this offense and execute it, now that so many of his frequently injured receivers are finally on the field.

The players still aren’t in pads, either. Those come Monday. And Jones is a relentless and diligent worker. Multiple new people in the building have told the News that Jones’ work ethic is second to none.

There is so much about him to like, as a person and player and potential long-term leader of a team. Co-owner John Mara was

first in line in January putting his faith in Jones.

Mara has been on the practice field watching this unfold, however, and while he seems to accept this will be a rough season, there is no way he’ll be satisfied with a product as bad as the one he’s seen through three days.

Jones has been on notice officially since Schoen declined to pick up his fifth-year option in the spring. And Daboll’s urgency is there, too, behind his warm smile for the cameras.

The Giants gave Taylor real money, \$10.9 million guaranteed over two years. He’s not just here to sit on the sidelines if this goes sideways.

Garoppolo’s \$26.9 million cap hit would make a trade to the Giants difficult, but it’s not impossible. Schoen simply would have to shed salary in return to fit him.

The rebuilding process in the NFL accepts short-term pain for long-term gain, but Mara has an evolving threshold of tolerance, as recent coaches have learned.

The plan was to give Jones a real chance this season behind a good offensive line with a healthy, talented skill group. But this looks bad early.

And plans can change.

SUN 88, STORM 83 LATE THURSDAY

Sun clinch playoff spot; Connecticut celebrates Bird

By Lila Bromberg
Hartford Courant

UNCASVILLE — Sue Bird stood at center court with her hand over heart as she looked around Mohegan Sun Arena and soaked it all in.

The entire crowd was on its feet cheering for the former UConn star during a pregame ceremony honoring her final regular-season game in Connecticut.

The Storm would eventually fall to the Sun 88-83 Thursday night, but it was a special final homecoming for Bird in front of a sold-out crowd nonetheless.

“That was really a special moment for me,” Bird said. “I do have some friends, some family that are also in attendance, but of course the fans. I’ve said it before, I feel like they’ve really watched me throughout my whole career given that it started here.

“A lot of times as a UConn player, I feel like the fans look at us like family, so they really stay with us through our careers. And that’s something that I treasure, something that I’ve always really enjoyed every time I came back here, so tonight was a perfect way to end that. I would have preferred a win, but I’ll take it.”

Still playing at an elite level at

41 years old, Bird scored 14 points on 4 of 5 3-point shooting and also dished out seven assists.

Three other former UConn stars rounded out the Storm’s starting lineup, with each making a big impact. Gabby Williams finished with 16 points, nine rebounds, four assists and three steals. Breanna Stewart had 17 points, three rebounds and two steals. Tina Charles ended the night with 14 points, 10 rebounds and five assists.

Alyssa Thomas led the Sun with a double-double performance, recording 19 points, 11 assists, five rebounds and two steals. DeWanna Bonner had 12 points and 10 rebounds, Brionna Jones had 13 points and five rebounds, and Courtney Williams had 12 points, five rebounds and three steals.

With the victory, the Sun (20-9) clinched a spot in the playoffs for the sixth consecutive year. It was their third win against the Storm this season, now two games ahead of them in the WNBA standings in a tight race for playoff seeding among the top five teams in the league.

The contest featured seven ties and three lead changes, going down to the wire in the fourth quarter.



Sue Bird drives against Sun guard Natisha Hiedeman during the first half of Thursday’s game, likely Bird’s last in Connecticut.
BRYAN WOOLSTON/AP

Amore

from Page 1

the final minutes, but it was yet another moment to suggest that Bird just has this whole retirement thing figured out. Pitch perfect.

So maybe she’s not the player she was 15 years ago, but she’s going out in style, and with plenty of game left, the way most great athletes dream of going out. Few do.

“I feel very lucky that I’m able to go out on my own two feet,” Bird said. “Both figuratively and literally. I’ve seen other athletes who haven’t been able to do that and I’ve seen the heartache that it’s caused, so more than anything I feel lucky that I’m making the decision and not something else, specifically my body.”

Geno Auriemma watched from a sky box. Surrounded by former Huskies in the starting lineup, Breanna Stewart, Tina Charles and Gabby Williams, who had a sensational night, Bird scored eight points in the first quarter to help Seattle build a 10-point lead. The lead disappeared when she went to the bench, but the Storm surged back when she returned, and so it went.

“She plays the game with her mind,” Quinn said. “She’s the ultimate leader. She’s a coach on the floor. And there are times she can still shoot very efficiently and effectively. There are numerous aspects of her game that are still very potent.”

Bird is playing out this transitional period, with one eye on a glorious past in the game and the other on the future. Among the gifts the Sun’s Jen Rizzotti and Curt Miller presented were a bottle of wine, 2002 vintage to mark the year she started in Seattle, and books curated from her sister Jennifer’s store, Athena Books in Greenwich.

“She tried to surprise me, but she had to tell me,” Bird said. “But the books, that was a surprise. My sister opened up a bookstore and it’s a passion project, but it’s like a family business now and we’re all really proud of her.”

On the night she played in Connecticut for the last time, her own passion project was revealed. Bird joined Eli Manning in making a sizable investment, a \$40 million valuation, in the Gotham Football Club in the National Women’s Soccer League.

“My next life, huh?” Bird said. “I believe in women’s sports, I believe in women’s soccer. I think there’s a tremendous amount of growth to be had in the investment aspect of women’s sports, I’ve been saying that a long time, and now it’s time to put my money where my mouth is. Soccer and basketball were my two first loves.”

Bird got her first standing ovation at 6:57 p.m., when she came out for warmups. When the gifts were presented, she held the wine bottle high and blew a kiss to the crowd before joining her teammates in the layup line.

The crowd responded to her every entrance and exit, because it’s this way here: UConn may be only a small stretch in the timeline of a long, consequential career, in Bird’s case from age 17 to 21, but once you’ve worn that uniform, the love affair never ends.

“I feel like they’ve watched me my whole career,” Bird said. “A lot of times, as a UConn player, you feel like the fans look at us as family and they stay with us our entire career. It’s something I treasure, that I’ve always really enjoyed when I came back here. So tonight is a perfect way to end that.”

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

SCOREBOARD

SOCCKER

MLS EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Philadelphia	11	2	9	42	34	15
New York City FC	12	4	5	41	41	21
N.Y. Red Bulls	10	6	6	36	34	25
CF Montréal	11	8	2	35	36	36
Orlando City	8	8	6	30	26	31
Columbus	7	5	9	30	27	22
Cincinnati	7	8	7	28	33	38
Charlotte FC	8	12	2	26	25	31
Chicago	7	10	5	26	24	28
New England	6	7	8	26	32	34
Inter Miami CF	7	10	4	25	32	33
Atlanta	6	9	6	24	29	30
Toronto FC	6	12	4	22	30	39
D.C. United	5	12	3	18	26	43
WESTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	14	4	3	45	42	22
Austin FC	12	5	5	41	45	28
Minnesota United	10	8	4	34	31	26
Real Salt Lake	9	7	6	33	28	27
FC Dallas	8	6	8	32	32	25
Nashville	8	7	7	31	28	28
LA Galaxy	9	9	3	30	30	27
Portland	7	6	9	30	35	31
Seattle	9	10	2	29	28	25
Vancouver	7	10	5	26	24	37
Houston	7	11	4	25	28	31
Colorado	6	9	6	24	25	29
San Jose	5	9	7	22	34	43
Sporting KC	5	13	5	20	19	40

Three points for win, one point for tie.

FRIDAY'S RESULT

Seattle at Los Angeles FC, late

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Portland at Minnesota, 3p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 5p.m.
Columbus at Charlotte FC, 7p.m.
New York City FC at CF Montréal, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m.
Cincinnati at Miami, 8p.m.
Vancouver at Nashville, 8p.m.
Toronto FC at New England, 8p.m.
Austin FC at Sporting KC, 8:30p.m.
LA Galaxy at FC Dallas, 9p.m.
Real Salt Lake at San Jose, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCH

Orlando City at D.C. United, 5p.m.

TUESDAY'S MATCHES

Colorado at New York, 7:30p.m.
FC Dallas at Seattle, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES

D.C. United at Charlotte FC, 7p.m.
CF Montréal at Columbus, 7:30p.m.
Nashville at Portland, 10:30p.m.
Miami at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG. 5

Houston at Vancouver, 10:30p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 6

Seattle at Atlanta, 3p.m.
Chicago at Charlotte FC, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 7:30p.m.
New York City FC at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Red Bulls at D.C. United, 7:30p.m.
Miami at CF Montréal, 7:30p.m.
New England at Orlando City, 7:30p.m.
Toronto FC at Nashville, 8p.m.
LA Galaxy at Sporting KC, 8:30p.m.
San Jose at Austin FC, 9p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Real Salt Lake, 10 p.m.
FC Dallas at Portland, 10:30p.m.

U.S. OPEN CUP

CHAMPIONSHIP, Sept. 7
Sacramento Republic (USLC) at Orlando City, at Exploria Stadium, 8 p.m.

NWSL CLUBS

CLUB	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
San Diego	6	3	4	22	19	11
Portland	5	1	6	21	29	10
Chicago	5	2	5	20	20	16
Houston	5	4	3	18	20	14
Kansas City	5	4	3	18	12	14
OL Reign	4	3	5	17	11	9
Angel City	5	4	2	17	10	11
Orlando	3	5	4	13	12	26
Gotham FC	4	6	0	12	7	18
Louisville	2	5	5	11	13	18
Washington	1	5	7	10	15	15
North Carolina	2	5	2	8	14	16

Three points for win, one point for tie.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Washington at North Carolina, late
Portland at Louisville, late

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

San Diego at Chicago, 8p.m.
OL Reign at Angel City, 10:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES

Houston at Gotham FC, 5p.m.
Orlando at Kansas City, 7p.m.

TUESDAY'S MATCH

OL Reign at Louisville, 8p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG. 5

Washington at Louisville, 8p.m.
North Carolina at Portland, 10:30p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 7

Kansas City at San Diego, 5p.m.
Gotham FC at Chicago, 6p.m.
Houston at OL Reign, 6p.m.
Angel City at Orlando, 7p.m.

U.S. WOMEN'S SCHEDULE (11-0-1)

s-Feb. 17: U.S. 0, Czech Republic 0
s-Feb. 20: U.S. 5, New Zealand 0
s-Feb. 23: U.S. 5, Iceland 0
April 9: U.S. 9, Uzbekistan 1
April 12: U.S. 9, Uzbekistan 0
June 25: U.S. 3, Colombia 0
June 28: U.S. 2, Colombia 0
v-July 4: U.S. 3, Haiti 0
v-July 7: U.S. 5, Jamaica 0
v-July 11: U.S. 1, Mexico 0
v-July 14: U.S. 3, Costa Rica 0
v-July 18: U.S. 1, Canada 0
Sept. 3: vs. Nigeria, 1 p.m.
Sept. 6: vs. Nigeria, 6 p.m.
s-SheBelieves Cup
v-CONCACAF W Championship

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE (5-2-3)

q-Jan. 27: U.S. 1, El Salvador 0
q-Jan. 30: Canada 2, U.S. 0
q-Feb. 2: U.S. 3, Honduras 0
q-March 24: Mexico 0, U.S. 0

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

FRIDAY, AUG. 5
Crystal Palace vs. Arsenal, 3p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 6

Liverpool vs. Fulham, 7p.m.
Aston Villa vs. Bournemouth, 10 a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Leeds, 10 a.m.
Nottingham vs. Newcastle, 10a.m.
Southampton vs. Tottenham, 10a.m.
Chelsea vs. Everton, 12:30p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 7

Brentford vs. Leicester City, 9a.m.
Brighton vs. Manchester United, 9a.m.
Man. City vs. West Ham, 11:30a.m.

WNBA

EAST	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	21	7	.750	—
x-Connecticut	20	9	.690	1½
Washington	18	11	.621	3½
Atlanta	12	17	.414	9½
New York	10	17	.370	10½
Indiana	5	25	.167	17
WEST	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	20	8	.714	—
Seattle	18	11	.621	2½
Phoenix	13	16	.448	7½
Los Angeles	12	16	.429	8
Dallas	12	16	.429	8
Minnesota	11	19	.367	10

x-clinched playoff spot

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Las Vegas at Indiana, late
New York at Chicago, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Seattle at Washington, noo
Dallas at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Chicago at Connecticut, 1p.m.
Phoenix at New York, 2p.m.
Las Vegas at Indiana, 3p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 3p.m.
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 7p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Connecticut 88, Seattle 83
Minnesota 92, Atlanta 85
Washington 87, Dallas 77
Phoenix 90, Los Angeles 80

TENNIS

ATP CROATIA OPEN UMAG

Friday at ITC Stella Maris, Umag, Croatia, outroos, Red clay
MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#1 Carlos Alcaraz d.
Facundo Bagnis, 6-0, 6-4.
#2Jannik Sinner d.
Roberto Carballes Baena, 6-4, 7-6(5).
Franco Agamenone d.
Marco Cecchinato, 6-2, 6-1.
Giulio Zeppieri d.
Bernabe Zapata Miralles, 7-5, 6-4.

WTA LIVESPORT PRAGUE OPEN

Friday at TK Sparta Praha, Prague, outdoors, hardcourt
WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#7Anastasia Potapova d.
#1Anett Kontaveit, 6-1, 6-1.
#8Marie Bouzkova d.
Oksana Selekhmeteva, 6-3, 6-0.
Linda Noskova d.
Nao Hibino, 6-3, 4-2, ret.
Wang Qiang d.
Magda Linette, 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-4.

ATP ATLANTA OPEN

Friday at Atlanta Station, Atlanta, outdoors, hardcourt
MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#2John Isner vs.
#6Jenson Brooksby, late
#3Alex de Minaur d.
Adrian Mannarino, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.
#4Frances Tiafoe vs.
#8Brandon Nakashima, late
Ilya Ivashka d.
#5Tommy Paul (5), 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.

ATP GENERALI OPEN

Friday at Tennis Stadium Kitzbuhel, Kitzbuhel, Austria, outdoor, Red-clay
MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
Filip Misolic d.
Dusan Lajovic, 2-6, 7-6(5), 6-3.
MEN'S SINGLES, SEMIFINALS
#3Roberto Bautista Agut d.
#5Albert Ramos-Vinolas, 6-3, 7-6(3).

WTA BNP PARIBAS POLAND OPEN

Friday at Legia Tennis Centre, Warsaw, Poland, outdoors, Red clay
WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#5 Caroline Garcia d.
#1 Iga Swiatek, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4.
Kateryna Baindl d.
#8 Petra Martic, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.
#10 Jasmine Paolini d.
Viktoria Golubic, 1-6, 6-2, 6-2.
Ana Bogdan d.
Laura Pigossi, 6-1, 6-1.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR CUP SERIES

MANUFACTURERS STANDINGS	RK	MAKE	PTS	PB	W
1	Chevrolet	777	—	12	
2	Ford	703	-74	4	
3	Toyota	698	-79	5	

DRIVER POINT STANDINGS

DRIVER	CF	W	T5	T10	PTS
Chase Elliott	4	8	15	787	
Ross Chastain	2	10	14	682	
Ryan Blaney	0	7	10	676	
Kyle Larson	1	9	11	661	
Martin Truex, Jr.	0	3	9	654	
Christopher Bell	1	6	12	605	
Joey Logano	2	5	8	599	
Kyle Busch	1	6	11	595	
William Byron	2	4	5	572	
Kevin Harvick	0	5	11	571	
Alex Bowman	1	3	9	536	
Daniel Suarez	1	5	9	526	
Aric Almirola	0	2	6	514	
Tyler Reddick	1	6	8	509	
Austin Cindric	1	3	6	495	
Chase Briscoe	1	3	4	487	
Kurt Busch	1	5	8	485	
Erik Jones	0	2	7	472	
Austin Dillon	0	3	7	448	
Michael McDowell	0	1	8	447	
Denny Hamlin	2	3	5	443	
Bubba Wallace	0	2	4	418	
Justin Haley	0	1	2	407	
Chris Buescher	0	1	5	388	
Ricky Stenhouse, Jr.	0	1	5	367	
Cole Custer	0	0	1	353	
Harrison Burton	0	0	1	333	
Brad Keselowski	0	0	3	319	
Todd Gilliland	0	0	0	308	
Ty Dillon	0	0	1	294	
Corey LaJoie	0	1	1	247	
Cody Ware	0	0	0	166	
David Ragan	0	0	1	61	
Joey Hand	0	0	0	44	
Greg Biffle	0	0	0	24	
Jacques Villeneuve	0	0	0	15	
Boris Said	0	0	0	11	
Kyle Tilley	0	0	0	7	

NASCAR CUP FASTEST LAPS

Points standing positions, percentage and total fastest laps:

DRIVER	POS.	PCT.	LAPS
1. Kyle Busch	8	7.3	325
2. Chase Elliott	1	7.2	321
3. Ross Chastain	2	6.7	295
4. Martin Truex Jr	5	6.6	294
5. Kyle Larson	4	5.4	238
6. William Byron	9	4.9	215
7. Denny Hamlin	21	4.7	207
8. Ryan Blaney	3	4.6	202
9. Christopher Bell	6	4.4	194
10. Tyler Reddick	14	4.2	188

LAPS LED

DRIVER	EV	LAPS	LED
Chase Elliott	21	5203	658
William Byron	21	4894	611
Ross Chastain	21	5074	474
Kyle Busch	21	5153	462
Martin Truex, Jr.	21	5308	455
Ryan Blaney	21	5016	399
Denny Hamlin	21	4951	311
Kyle Larson	21	5054	291
Tyler Reddick	21	5027	278
Chase Briscoe	21	5129	226
Christopher Bell	21	5274	214
Joey Logano	21	5309	206
Daniel Suarez	21	5071	203
Kurt Busch	20	4855	182
Brad Keselowski	21	5074	73
Erik Jones	21	5372	72
Austin Cindric	21	4723	65

AVERAGE FINISH POSITION

DRIVER	EV	AvSt	AvFn
Chase Elliott	21	9.9	10.0
Ross Chastain	21	15.3	12.2
Ryan Blaney	21	9.0	13.1
Kevin Harvick	21	19.0	13.3

NFL PRESEASON

HALL OF FAME GAME

THURSDAY'S GAME
Jacksonville vs. Las Vegas, 8 p.m.

WEEK 1

THURSDAY, AUG. 11
N.Y. Giants at New England, 7 p.m.
Tennessee at Baltimore, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, AUG. 12
Atlanta at Detroit, 6 p.m.
Cleveland at Jacksonville, 7 p.m.
Arizona at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Green Bay at San Francisco, 8 p.m.
SATURDAY, AUG. 13
Kansas City at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Buffalo, 4 p.m.
Seattle at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Miami at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Houston, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Denver, 9 p.m.
L.A. Rams at L.A. Chargers, 10 p.m.
SUNDAY, AUG. 14
Minnesota at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m.

ODDS

MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	Line
at Miami	Off	N.Y. Mets	+138	
St. Louis	-164	at Pittsburgh	+138	
Philadelphia	-164	at Pittsburgh	+138	
at Atlanta	-215	Arizona	+180	
LA Dodgers	-235	at Colorado	+194	
at San Francisco	Off	Chicago Cubs	Off	
AMERICAN LEAGUE	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	Line
at Tampa Bay	-126	Cleveland	+108	
at NY Yankees	-275	Kansas City	+225	
at Toronto	-275	Detroit	+225	
at Houston	-184	Seattle	+152	
at Chi. Wh. Sox	-180	Oakland	+154	
at LA Angels	-115	Texas	-105	
INTERLEAGUE	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	Line
Milwaukee	-118	at Boston	+102	
at Cincinnati	-120	Baltimore	+100	
at San Diego	-126	Minnesota	+108	

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

GOLF

LATE THURSDAY: PGA ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

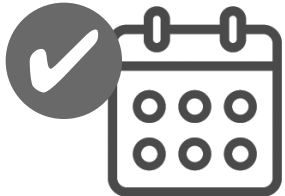
1st of 4 rounds, North Course, Detroit, 7,370 yards; Par 72		
Tony Finau	33-31—64	-8
Taylor Pendrith	31-33—64	-8
Cameron Champ	32-34—66	-6
Lee Hodges	35-31—66	-6
Webb Simpson	32-34—66	-6
Michael Thompson	33-33—66	-6
Matt Wallace	33-33—66	-6
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	34-33—67	-5</

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

- Avon
Carmela J. Cliche
- East Hartford
Roy N. Shaw
- Ellington
Andrew Gerardi
- Farmington
Carmela J. Cliche
- Hartford
Gerald A Cassell
Francis A Dupuis
- New Britain
David J. Rector
- Other Towns in CT
Mary A. Freeland
Robert G. Higgins
William Sowik
- Out of State
Francis A Dupuis
Mary A. Freeland
- Portland
David J. Rector
- South Windsor
Avis Pelletier
- Vernon
Francis A Dupuis
Andrew Gerardi
- West Hartford
Elizabeth "Betsey" Kearns
- Wethersfield
Frank J. Canino
Elizabeth "Betsey" Kearns

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Canino, Frank J.

Frank J. Canino 73 of Wethersfield passed away at St. Francis Hospital

Son of Austin Canino and Ella (Brandt) Canino of Hartford

He is survived by his sisters Dorothy Daigle of Moodus, Shirley Canino of Hartford, Sandra Downey of Glastonbury, brother Richard Canino of Northport, FL, 22 nieces and nephews

Frank is preceded in death by sister Elaine Bender of South Windsor and sister Joyce Walsh of Glastonbury

Graveside service will be held Wednesday, August 3, 11:00 am at Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill, CT
Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Kearns, Elizabeth (Alexander)



Elizabeth "Betsey" (Alexander) Kearns, 95, of West Hartford, passed away on July 26, 2022, at St. Francis Hospital after a long illness. Born on May 15, 1927 in Hartford, CT, she was a daughter of the late Raymond and Bernice (Dow) Alexander. For many years, Betsey worked as an Administrative Assistant for Bachrach Photography Studios in Hartford. After which, she continued her administrative duties with Lydall Superior Ball Co. until her retirement. She enjoyed traveling, taking cruises, knitting and thoroughly enjoyed cooking for her family and friends during the holidays. Betsey enjoyed having dogs in her life. She had many, with Fritz being her last companion. Betsey was a congregant at First Church of Christ in Wethersfield for many years. She is survived by her two daughters-in-law Tracey Wring and Glenda Kearns; three grandchildren Luke Kearns, Jessica Tilley, and Derrick Monahan; three great grandchildren Connor, James, and Shane, and two nephews Steven and Mark Gagnon. Betsey was predeceased by her sons Bruce and Robert Kearns, her daughter Karen Kearns, her partner of 50 years Harvey Marco, and her sister Barbara Gagnon Kostek. Betsey's family would like to send a very grateful thank you to the staff at Avery Heights for the wonderful care they gave Betsey. A graveside service and burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Family and friends are invited to leave a condolence message by visiting [www.dupontfuneralhome.com](#)

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Pelletier, Avis (Jewett)



Avis (Jewett) Pelletier, 89, of South Windsor, beloved wife of 63 years to Leonard Pelletier, passed away on Sunday, July 24, 2022, surrounded by her family. Avis was born in Montgomery, Vermont on July 8, 1933, the daughter of the late Harold and Ruth (Wetherby) Jewett. She worked hard balancing a rural farm life with school. In 1951, she graduated from Enosburg High School. Looking towards the future, Avis decided to venture to Connecticut where she became employed as a Data Processor at the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. She then met Leonard Pelletier, and they were married in East Hartford on August 2, 1958. In 1961, she changed careers to be a full-time mother and homemaker, taking wonderful care of her husband and son. Avis and Leonard had a lovely life together. They enjoyed talking with each other, entertaining, and traveling, especially to their time-share in North Conway, New Hampshire. Music played an important part in Avis's life – she was proficient at both the organ and piano and could often be found playing the piano in the basement next to her husband who accompanied her on drums. Avis always had a positive presence in the South Windsor Community and leaves behind many very dear friends. She was a faithful and active member of the First Congregational Church of South Windsor. In her senior years, she became a very prevalent member of the South Windsor Senior Center and participated in all types of activities including Tap and Line Dancing. She will always be remembered for her wonderful performance in South Windsor's version of "Dancing with the Stars" alongside the town's former Chief of Police, Matt Reed. She was a member of the Red Hat Society and a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. She was both an avid supporter and viewer of UConn Women's basketball. Avis loved to garden and bird watch and had an affection for butterflies. She was a gentle soul, with a positive attitude. She will be sorrowfully missed by her family and friends. Avis is lovingly remembered by her son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Vicky Pelletier of South Windsor, her "bonus" daughter Lynn Maylin and partner Rodney McCormick of Hallowell, Maine, her brother Larry Jewett of Graceville, Florida, her sister-in-law Irene Jewett of Richford, Vermont, her grandchildren, Jared Pelletier and fiancé Amanda Harris, Jeffrey and Janice Maylin, and her great grandchild Jeffrey Maylin. She was predeceased by her brother Douglas Jewett. A Service of Remembrance will be held at the First Congregational Church of South Windsor, 993 Main Street, South Windsor, on Wednesday, August 3rd at 11:00 a.m. with Reverend Nina J. Schmid officiating. Burial will follow at Center Cemetery, located directly behind the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of South Windsor, 993 Main Street, South Windsor, Connecticut, 06074. Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home in South Windsor is caring for the arrangements. For online condolences and guest book, please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](#)



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Visit the obituary section on [courant.com](#) to share memories of loved ones.

OBITUARIES

Cassell , Gerald A



Gerald A. Cassell, Jr., 56, of Hartford, beloved son of the late Anne and Gerald Cassell, passed away on Monday, July 25th. Jerry was raised in West Hartford and attended West Hartford schools and Saint Thomas Seminary. He took great pride in volunteering at various soup kitchens. He enjoyed listening to music, often taking us back to our younger days. He loved spending time with family and never passed up an opportunity to cheer on the New York Giants. He also had the most wonderful laugh and found pleasure in whatever life offered. In addition to his parents, Jerry was preceded in death by his brother, Ed Cassell. He will be deeply missed by his sisters, Margaret Tautic (Randy), Bridget Dunn (Peter Alesevich), Louise Svalestad (Scott) Catherine O'Brien (Andrew) as well as many nephews and nieces. Private services will be held for the family. Memorial contributions can be made to Loaves and Fishes Ministries, 646 Prospect Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105. Jerry will forever be known as someone who was kind and generous to others. His family would greatly appreciate your random act of kindness in his memory.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Cliche, Carmela J. (Chiarillo)

Carmela J. (Chiarillo) Cliche, 87, of Farmington Woods, passed away on July 26, 2022 at John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington. To view Carmela's full obituary, please visit [www.dupontfuneralhome.com](#)

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Dupuis, Francis A

Francis A. Dupuis, 78, of Vernon, CT passed May 20, 2022. Born on August 23, 1943, he is predeceased by his wife Elaine L. Dupuis and leaves his children Michelle, Renee, Matthew, and Olivia. He also leaves his two granddaughters, Joelle and Landyn. A grave site memorial service will be held at St. Bernard's Cemetery in Rockville, CT on September 2, 2022, at 1 pm.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Freeland, Mary A.



Mary A. Freeland, 66, of Plainfield, CT, passed away at home with her loving family by her side on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. She was born on June 30, 1956 in Middlebury, VT, daughter of the late Chester E., Jr. and Anna (Farkas) Thayer. Mary worked at TYCO for 20 years, then went on to CUNO for 11 years, and Dunkin Donuts for 8 years, all in Stafford Springs, CT, before retiring in 2005. She enjoyed going to the beach and painting on her phone. Her greatest love was spending time with her family. Mary leaves behind her daughters, Bobi-Jo LaPoint and her husband Alan of Plainfield, CT, and Amy Carrier of Norwich, CT; grandchildren, Vanessa-Ann LaPoint, Alan "Bud" LaPoint, III, and Georgia-Rose Carrier; siblings, Bonnita King of North Carolina, Donna Spink and her husband Pete of Eastford, CT, Anna Bryant of Pomfret, CT, Paula White and her husband Herbert of Charlton, MA, Frank Thayer and his wife Beth of Woodstock, CT, and John Thayer and his wife Lisa of Hydeville, CT; and several nieces and nephews. She was greeted at the gates of Heaven by her husband, George J. Freeland; brother, Chester E. Thayer, III "Cub Bear"; sister-in-law, April Thayer; nephew, Christopher Thayer; and brothers-in-law, Terry A. Bryant and Wendell Dobson. Calling hours will be held on Monday, August 1, 2022 from 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M., with a funeral service to take place at 12:00 P.M., at Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT. Burial will follow in Stafford Springs Cemetery, Stafford Springs, CT. To leave a condolence online for the family, please visit: [www.introvignefuneralhome.com](#)



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Gerardi, Andrew



Andrew J. Gerardi, 38, of Columbia, CT died unexpectedly at home on Sunday, May 1, 2022. Born in Vernon, CT, he was the son of Robert and Doreen (Colburn) Gerardi.

Following graduation from Rockville High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corp where he honorably served his country from 2002 to 2006 as a Communication Specialist. During his time in the Marines, Andrew quickly rose to Lance Corporal through several Meritorious Promotion Boards due to his leadership and character. LCpl Gerardi bravely defended our nation while serving in Iraq soon after the events of 9-11. While stationed in Iraq, he, along with just two others, were tasked to update and re-route all telecommunication and Data Cat-5 lines that supported all communications for Forward Operations Base in Al Qa'im, Iraq.

After his time in the Marine Corp, Andrew moved back to Connecticut and established roots in Columbia. Working across the state as a service technician for various security, cable, and internet providers over the last 15 years. Truly loving what he did, Andrew excelled in each role he had.

When not working, he would enjoy the outdoors as much as possible. Fishing and snowboarding were two of his main passions.

In addition to his parents (Robert and Doreen), Andrew is survived by his brother, Timothy Gerardi and his wife Amanda of Pembroke, NH, along with their two children, his niece Megan, and nephew Michael (he loved both deeply). Andrew is also survived by an amazing extended family of Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins that loved and cared for him very much.

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Sowik, William



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of William Bradford Sowik on July 13, 2022. He passed away peacefully after a 5 year battle with cancer. He will be deeply missed by his wife of almost 50 years, Sherri, his sons, Jason (Samantha) and Jeremy (Olivia) and grandchildren Kingston and Noah; sister Sharene Chiaia (Louie), and his cousins Frank and Ellen, nieces and nephews and many extended family members. Born and raised in CT, Bill spent many summers out at Cockenoe Island, graduated from Staples High School and graduated from UConn with a degree in Environmental Sciences. He was a veteran of the U. S. Air Force. He jogged for many years and enjoyed playing golf and had the highlight of hitting a hole in one in 2012. He worked for many years for the State of CT monitoring air quality as a field technician at the DEEP.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson Street, Willimantic, CT on Saturday, August 6th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We will always be grateful to the staff of Dr. Joseph McLaughlin at the John DeQuattro Cancer Center and Bill's hospice team as well as family and many friends who were there for us.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made online to the Prostate Cancer Foundation ([www.pcf.org](#)). If mailing, the address is 1250 Fourth Street, 3rd Floor, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Please reference Bill's name "in memory" in either the online or sent donation. Inform them of your name and address so they can notify the family of your donation. Also, donations can be made to Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut to enable donations of medical supplies for people who need them at [www.echn.org](#). Please write checks out to VNHSC Hospice and send to VNHSC Hospice, 8 Keynote Drive, Vernon, CT 06066. For complete obituary and online condolences, please visit [www.potterfuneralhome.com](#).

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Shaw, Roy Noel



Roy Noel Shaw, 83, of East Hartford, beloved husband of over 56 years to Norma (McLennan) Shaw, died on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. He was born in Kingston, Jamaica on October 17, 1938 and came to the United States and became a U. S. Citizen. Roy was in the transportation industry, and he drove tractor trailers for a living. He was a proud member of the Teamsters Union. Roy was a family-oriented person and he loved spending time with his wife and grandchildren, and he had a sweet appreciation for art. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Dr. Robert Shaw and his wife Dr. Eugenia Wagner-Shaw and their children Jenna and Anna Shaw, as well as his daughter Nanette Schworm and her children Cheyenne and Joshua Schworm. He also leaves his only remaining sibling, Jean Garvey of Florida. He was predeceased by his son-in-law Edward Schworm (2014). His family will receive friends for calling hours on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. followed by a funeral service beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Road, South Windsor. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Roy's memory may be made to the American Brain Foundation, 201 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55415-1126 [www.americanbrainfoundation.org](#) For online condolences and guest book, please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](#)



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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of DONALD T. EBERHARDT



1/21/1945 - 7/30/2010

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SHEET-PAN CHICKEN BLENDS SWEET, SAVORY



Roasted chicken thighs are paired with tangy sour cherries and finished with a creamy, cooling cucumber yogurt in this balanced weeknight meal. **RYAN LIEBE/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

By **Melissa Clark**
The New York Times

Every July, I question my sour cherry priorities. Their season is so short, and the fruit so scarce that I rarely get around to making anything beyond one big, gushy pie and a year's supply of home-made maraschino cherries (must-haves in my Manhattan cocktail). But maybe, I always think, this is the summer I'll try something new. Then the urge passes, and I never do. Last year, though, sour cherry season lingered a little longer than usual in the Northeast, so I was able to squeeze one more recipe into the lineup. I considered jam, a cordial, even meatballs before settling on sheet-pan chicken. Of the approximately 1 gazillion sheet-pan chicken variations I've

cooked, sour cherries never made it into the mix. But I knew that their tangy juices would work well with the chicken fat sizzling at the bottom of the pan. To accentuate the cherries' sweet-and-sour character, I simmered them briefly with rice vinegar, sugar and a bay leaf. Then I spooned them over a pan full of boneless, skinless chicken thighs and red onion wedges. As it all roasted, the smell of caramelized fruit and browned-edged chicken filled the kitchen, making me want to stay close enough to breathe it all in. I took advantage by throwing together an ad hoc sauce from thick Greek yogurt, slivered cucumber and more of that sweetened vinegar-bay leaf solution I'd used for the cherries. Dolloped on the chicken, it was a cooling, creamy counterpart to the roasted thighs, zippy

cherries and soft strands of red onion. My family ate it with a torn-up baguette to catch all the drippings, and we all agreed: It was a marvelous summer meal — even at the expense of a batch of cherry jam. I was so taken with this dish that I tried to create something similar after sour cherry season had passed. I tried red and green grapes, then sweet cherries, then cherry tomatoes. All were good. But none matched the intense sweet-tart character of the sour cherries. (Note that I did not try this dish with thawed frozen sour cherries. I didn't have any.) This year, as sour cherry season approached once again, I worried I'd have to choose between pie, cocktails and my new favorite sheet-pan dinner. Luckily, the market yielded enough cherries for me to make them all.

CHICKEN THIGHS WITH SOUR CHERRIES AND CUCUMBER YOGURT

- Makes:** 4 to 6 servings
Total time: 45 minutes
2 to 2 ¼ pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs
1 large red onion, peeled and cut into ½-inch wedges
2 ½ teaspoons kosher salt (such as Diamond Crystal), plus more as needed
1 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper, plus more as needed
2 tablespoons minced tarragon, plus more for serving
2 ½ tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for serving
⅓ cup unseasoned rice vinegar
3 to 4 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 bay leaf
2 cups thinly sliced cucumbers, preferably Persian cucumbers
2 cups sour cherries, stemmed and pitted
1 cup plain whole-milk yogurt
Flaky sea salt, for serving (optional)
- 1. Heat** oven to 425 degrees. Combine chicken and onion on a rimmed sheet pan. Toss with 1 ½ teaspoons salt and 1 teaspoon black pepper. Add tarragon and 1 ½ tablespoons oil, and toss to combine. Let stand at room temperature while preparing other ingredients.
- 2. In a small saucepan,** combine vinegar, 2 tablespoons sugar, bay leaf and remaining 1 teaspoon salt over medium-high heat. Bring to a simmer, stirring frequently to dissolve sugar.
- 3. Place** sliced cucumbers in medium bowl. Add 2 tablespoons of the vinegar solution to cucumbers and toss. Set aside.
- 4. Return** pan to medium-low heat and add another tablespoon sugar. Once sugar dissolves, stir in cherries. Cook until cherries are slightly broken down, 3 to 4 minutes. Taste and add more sugar if the cherries still seem very tart. (You're not looking for them to be sweet, just balanced.)
- 5. Spoon** cherries and their juices around chicken and onions. (It's OK if some cherries are on top of chicken and onions.) Roast until chicken is cooked through and cherries and onions are lightly browned in spots, 30 to 35 minutes. Give the dish a big stir and spoon the savory pan juices all over the top of the chicken.
- 6. While the chicken** is roasting, stir yogurt and remaining 1 tablespoon oil into the bowl with the pickled cucumbers. Season with a large pinch of salt and black pepper. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Just before serving, stir well, taste and add more salt if needed.
- 7. Top** chicken and cherries with a large dollop of cucumber yogurt, more tarragon and a drizzle of olive oil, then sprinkle with flaky sea salt or more kosher salt, if you like.



Tahini steps in for mayonnaise in this vegan take on the classic potato salad, finished with fresh and charred scallions. **DAVID MALOSH/ THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS**

Potato salad you can linger over

By **Melissa Clark**
The New York Times

Creamy, tangy, sweet and savory, a mayo-dressed potato salad is the crowd-pleasing heart of countless American cookouts and picnics — just as long as you make sure to keep it out of the sun.

But what if your crowd is not among the legion of mayonnaise lovers? Alternative options abound! Potato salad in some form or other has been around for centuries, but only since the 1920s has jarred mayonnaise been the defining ingredient in its dressing.

The beauty of potato salad is that you can use pretty much any kind of dressing, dip or sauce to make it. If you love it on vegetables, starches, proteins, your fingers, it will probably taste just as good tossed with warm chunks of velvety potato. Maybe even better. Hot bacon dressing, herby pesto, garlicky yogurt all make fantastic potato salads, without a jar of mayo in sight.

For this version, I wanted to come up with something that was as creamy as mayonnaise, but vegan-friendly and able to sit outside for hours without anyone getting anxious.

The key is tahini.

When seasoned with lemon and garlic and whisked with ice



Potatoes, scallions, lemon, garlic and herbs are used in a tahini potato salad.

water, tahini goes from gloppy and oily to pale, thick and emulsified with a bright and pungent flavor that's also earthy and rich.

Getting the right texture is not necessarily intuitive. The more ice water you drizzle in, the thicker the mixture gets — until, that is, it reaches maximum thickness, at which point adding more water thins it out again. Proceed slowly, adding the water gradually, spoonful by spoonful, until the results please you.

Add the dressing to the potatoes while they are still hot, so they can absorb the most flavor (a good rule for making any kind of potato salad). Let the potatoes

cool in the dressing before serving.

Most potato salads call for some kind of allium, be it red onion, white onion, scallion or shallot. I went with two full bunches of scallions here. Half are charred until smoky and sweet, and the rest are left raw, lending it all a fresh, sharp, green note that livens up the starchiness. If you add the raw scallions just before serving, they'll add crunch, too, since they won't have a chance to soften and wilt.

Then serve this at your next cookout. No matter how high the mercury rises, this potato salad will be crowd-pleasing indeed.

VEGAN POTATO SALAD WITH TAHINI

This robustly seasoned vegan potato salad is lively and earthy from a dressing of cumin, charred scallion and loads of tahini, which gives it a rich and creamy texture. This is a good one to make a day or two ahead as the flavors get better as they sit. Just be sure to let it come to room temperature so everything is at its brightest and most supple.

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
Total time: 45 minutes, plus at least an hour's resting
1 ¾ pounds yellow potatoes, such as Yukon Gold, cut into 1-inch chunks
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 bunches scallions, trimmed
½ cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice, plus more as needed
1 to 2 garlic cloves, finely grated
1 teaspoon ground cumin
¼ cup tahini
Ice water, as needed
½ cup soft herbs, such as cilantro, parsley, mint, dill or a combination
1. Place the potatoes in a large pot with enough salted water to cover by 1 inch. Bring to a boil over high heat and cook until potatoes are just tender, 10 to 15 minutes, depending on the kind of potato. Drain very well.
2. Heat the broiler. Arrange 1 bunch

scallions on a sheet pan. Thinly slice the other bunch, reserving the slices for serving.
3. Season the whole scallions in the pan with salt and pepper, and very lightly drizzle with olive oil. Broil until charred, tossing occasionally, for 3 to 7 minutes. Transfer to a cutting board to cool. Coarsely chop scallions and set aside.
4. In a large bowl, whisk together lemon juice, garlic, cumin and a large pinch of salt. Let sit for 1 minute to mellow the garlic and dissolve the salt. Whisk in tahini, then gradually add ice water, 1 tablespoon at a time (about 3 to 6 tablespoons total), until the sauce thickens and is smooth enough to drizzle. The sauce can take 30 seconds to 1 minute to thicken so keep whisking; if it gets too thick, thin it down with a little more water. Taste and add more lemon juice and salt if needed.
5. Transfer hot potatoes and charred scallions to the bowl with the tahini dressing. Drizzle in the remaining ½ cup olive oil and toss until potatoes are well coated. Taste and add more salt and lemon juice if needed.
6. Let cool to room temperature for at least an hour before serving, or refrigerate for up to 24 hours. The potatoes will absorb the dressing as they sit. Just before serving, taste and add more salt or lemon juice if needed, and toss with the raw scallion slices and herbs.

Fish dish should be summer staple

By **JeanMarie Brownson**
Tribune Content Agency

Summer vacations are synonymous with fresh fish. My father set out in the wee hours of the morning to catch Wisconsin lake perch and walleye for a family meal.

Nowadays, when traveling, I order local fish at restaurants or seek out fish markets to cook someone else's daily catch. Then I light the grill at our vacation rental or at a beachside park. Armed with some good olive oil, salt and pepper, the grilling could not be easier or faster.

When grilling fish at home, I start by making a pot of creamy mashed potatoes or corn-sweetened polenta to accompany the fish. Seasonal vegetables, such as asparagus or small zucchini, can be grilled before the fish; they taste great at room temperature. Sides done, the cook can concentrate on grilling the fish.

Thick fish fillets, such as salmon, halibut and mahi-mahi, taste great on the grill. Plan on 11 minutes per inch of thickness for cooking time. Thinner fillets, such as ocean perch, snapper or tilapia,



An easy smoked tomato vinaigrette transforms simple fish into a restaurant-worthy treat. **JEANMARIE BROWNSON/TNS**

cook in about half the time.

Many large supermarkets sell whole, farm-raised rainbow or brook trout. They typically are less expensive than other fish and have delicate flesh and mild, sweet taste. Purchase them cleaned and trimmed; I remove the heads before grilling so I can use them to make a mild fish broth. Cook the headless fish, splayed out flat on a hot grill skin-side down for a couple of minutes. Then, finish the cooking by the indirect method (away from the heat source) for a total time of about 5 minutes.

Leftover grilled fish makes a beautiful salad. Thinly slice ripe fresh tomatoes and arrange them in overlapping circles on a plate. Top with flakes of the grilled fish, diced avocado and spoonfuls of

GRILLED TROUT WITH SMOKED TOMATO AND PINE NUT VINAIGRETTE

Makes: 4 servings
4 farm-raised rainbow trout, cleaned, 9 to 10 ounces each or about 2 pounds trout filets, ocean perch or small tilapia filets
Coarse (kosher) salt, freshly ground black pepper
7 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
¼ cup pine nuts (1.5 ounces) or slivered almond or chopped pecans
½ cup (about 1 ounce) finely chopped smoked sun-dried tomatoes (not oil packed)
2 green onions, thinly sliced
¼ cup finely chopped flat leaf parsley
1 tablespoon sherry vinegar or red wine vinegar
1. Rinse fish and pat dry. Place on an oiled baking dish. Season fish or fillets with salt and pepper on all sides. Sprinkle with 1 ½ tablespoons of the olive oil, turning to coat all sides. Refrigerate covered for up to a couple of hours.
2. For vinaigrette, heat 1 ½ tablespoons of remaining olive oil in small skillet over medium heat until warm. Add garlic and pine nuts. Cook, stirring constantly just until nuts are golden, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in sun-dried tomatoes and green onions. Let cool to room temperature.
3. Prepare charcoal grill or preheat a gas grill to medium hot. Let grill grates heat for at least 5 minutes.
4. Stir the remaining 4 tablespoons of oil and the vinegar into the garlic mixture. Add ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper to taste. Set near the cooking surface.
5. Add fish to grill, skin-side down,

directly over heat source. Cover grill and cook until skin starts to turn golden, about 2 minutes. Turn off gas burner directly under fish (leave other burners on) or rotate charcoal grill grate so fish is no longer over the coals. Do not try to move the fish and do not flip them over.
6. Cover the grill and cook until the flesh is opaque and nearly flakes with a fork, 3 to 4 minutes more.
7. Use a very thin metal spatula to carefully remove fish from the grill and transfer to a serving platter. Drizzle with some of the smoked tomato vinaigrette. Garnish with parsley. Serve immediately.

SWEET CORN AND PARMESAN POLENTA

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
Note: You'll need 3 large ears of corn to yield 2 cups of kernels.
2 cups (about 12 ounces) fresh or frozen (thawed) corn kernels
3 cups chicken broth
1 clove garlic, minced
1 cup (6 ounces) instant polenta
¼ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
Freshly ground black pepper to taste
¼ cup hot water
2 tablespoons butter, softened
1. Puree corn kernels in a blender or food processor until smooth.
2. Put chicken broth and garlic into a large, deep saucepan. Heat to a boil over medium-high heat. Slowly whisk in the polenta until smooth. Reduce heat to low. Cook and stir polenta until it thickens, about 3 minutes. Stir in pureed corn, cheese and pepper. Remove from heat and cover tightly for up to 30 minutes.
3. To serve, gently warm mixture over low heat while stirring in ¼ cup hot water and the butter to return it to a creamy stage. Serve hot.

Natural wine transcends clichés in new doc

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

When the polarizing subject of natural wine arises, the discussion generally spirals to the stereotypes: flawed and funky wines, hippie producers and the debate over definitions. But a new documentary, “Living Wine,” hopes to change that trite discussion.

The film, showing in select theaters, focuses on a small group of natural wine producers in California. It examines the myriad reasons they choose to work in natural wine, along with the many rationales for consumers to drink it.

In this context, natural wine is presented neither as a trend nor a generational emblem. Involvement is a conscious choice.

Gideon Beinstock and Saron Rice of Clos Saron in the Sierra Foothills make wine without additives because they believe that method makes the best wines and offers the best expression of their vineyard.

“The fact that we don’t add anything is not because it’s natural,” Beinstock said. “It’s because, why would I add anything? It will not improve the wine.”

Darek Trowbridge of Old World Winery in the Russian River Valley believes in the traditional methods embodied by his ancestors, who planted a vineyard in the area almost 100 years ago, before chemical farming became the norm. He wants to express the distinctive terroirs of his vineyards, but he sees himself as a custodian of nature, too.

“I try to work to do good on my farm for the land, for the ecosystem,” he said. “Where I reside spiritually is where I want to reside as a farmer and not separate the two.”

For Megan Bell of Margins Wines, who shares a production facil-



GETTY

ity outside Santa Cruz with James Jelks of Floréz Wines, the reasons are more political, born of her demeaning experiences as a young woman in a male-dominated winery in Napa Valley.

“I hated my job,” she said. “I loved what I physically did, but the culture and the way that I was treated, I dreaded going to work every day. Nobody wants to be at work when their abilities are doubted constantly.”

The reasons to make natural wines are primarily cultural for Dani Rozman of La Onda, in the Sierra Foothills. He wants to wean Americans from the notion that the American wine industry traces directly to modern Europe. Instead, he wants to focus on North and South America, and their centuries of shared

grape-growing and wine-making history that began when Spanish missionaries planted the listán prieto, or mission, grape in the Americas.

Having worked with farmers in Chile gave him insight into alternatives to mainstream winemaking. “All the equipment is developed to make winemaking easier, but that doesn’t make it better,” he said.

Following their personal muses, these producers have all ended up outside conventional winemaking, and have gravitated to styles of farming without chemical fertilizers and sprays, while employing traditional, preindustrial production methods.

Looming over all is the climate crisis, which in California has caused intense heat waves, drought and repeated

threats of deadly, destructive fires. Each of these producers was directly affected by the fires.

While these winemakers do not say they work specifically to combat climate change, the film addresses the vast harm that conventional agriculture has exacted on ecosystems and the climate. It also holds out hope that, if the world could step away from chemical farming and focus on building soil health and other regenerative methods, agriculture could be an important part of the solution.

Lori Miller, the producer and director of “Living Wine,” said she was drawn to these subjects because they work on the fringe.

“I love telling stories about people outside the normal corporate world, people who are not playing

the game but are inspired from within,” she said in a phone interview. “This story fell within the mold.”

Though Miller, whose producer credits include “They Came to Play” and “Shakespeare High,” counts herself as a food and wine lover, she knew little about natural wine before beginning this project.

Her brother, Ben Miller, and his family had moved into a new home outside Santa Rosa, which came with a vineyard. They were dismayed to learn that the vineyard had been regularly sprayed with the herbicide glyphosate, which could have seeped into the well that supplied their household water. He was introduced to Trowbridge, who began the process of weaning the vineyard from chemical treatments.

Lori Miller imagines that those who watch the film might be very much like her, hyperconscious about where their food comes from but giving little thought to the wine. The first words in “Living Wine” come from Trowbridge:

“The natural wine movement is about 20 years behind the organic food movement,” he said. “You can’t see the processing, but typically wine is a manufactured, machine-driven product. That means adjuncts to make it work in a timely manner.

“People just don’t understand that,” he continued. “I didn’t know that until I got a master’s degree in winemaking.”

With the help of two proponents of regenerative agriculture, Elizabeth Candelario and Dr. Timothy LaSalle, the film traces the rise of chemical agriculture to the repurposing of closed munitions factories after World War II. Nitrogen that went into bombs was instead used to make fertilizer, while nerve gas became an ingredient in

pesticides.

With the support of the government and Big Agriculture, students and farmers were taught an industrialized form of agriculture to increase production. The industrial methods resulted in far more specialized farming rather than in the more natural, complex ecosystems of preindustrial farming, and built a dependency on Big Ag corporations.

“Every form of agriculture is detrimental to the environment, on any scale, even a garden, but we try to minimize the footprint,” Beinstock said.

Their winemaking facilities are rustic, far from the wealthy tourist outposts in the popular imagination. They are designed for work, and the labor is difficult. The motivation is more personal expression than profit, yet choosing to work outside the mainstream is stressful in its own ways.

“I’m at a spot still where I’ve been on food stamps for a year and I still have other jobs,” said Bell, of Margins Wines. “Because I’m putting all my money into my business.”

As for natural wines themselves, the film acknowledges that consumers may require time to adjust to them because of expectations that arise from years of drinking commonplace examples, just as a farm-raised tomato might prove shocking to one accustomed to glossy supermarket tomatoes.

What the film offers in the end is not a formula for the good life, but a way of living well and reflectively, as Tahnee Shields, a harvest intern at Clos Saron, says about Beinstock:

“His philosophy is, thinking about what a life can look like when you’re in constant cultivation and paying constant attention to something that you’re growing.”



Pickled jalapenos boost simple salad

By Christopher Kimball
For Associated Press

One of the best ways to build flavor is layering, or using one ingredient in two ways or at different stages of cooking. Using the zest of a lemon in cake batter, for instance, while using the juice in a citrusy glaze.

It’s a technique we rely on often in our book “COOKish,” which limits recipes to just six ingredients without sacrificing flavor. And it works particularly well with pickled jalapenos in this recipe for

a simple salad with arugula and avocado.

The jalapenos add juicy bursts of bright heat, but we also treat the pickling liquid as a separate ingredient. Using ¼ cup of the liquid as the acid in the vinaigrette boosts the dressing’s flavor without needing additional vinegar.

Along with the avocado, pumpkin seeds offer enough richness to make the salad a light main course, or pair it with sliced grilled skirt steak or hearty grains, such as barley, farro or quinoa.

ARUGULA AND AVOCADO SALAD WITH JALAPENO VINAIGRETTE

Total time: 15 minutes
Makes: 4 servings
3 to 4 tablespoons pickled jalapeno slices, chopped, plus ¼ cup pickling liquid
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Kosher salt and ground black pepper
4 cups lightly packed baby arugula
3 radishes, halved and thinly sliced or ½ English cucumber, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced
1 cup lightly packed fresh cilantro or 4 scallions, thinly sliced on the diagonal
¼ cup pumpkin seeds, toasted
2 ripe but firm avocados, halved, pitted, peeled and sliced

In a large bowl, whisk together the jalapenos and their liquid, the oil and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Add the arugula, radishes, cilantro and half of the pumpkin seeds, then toss. Season with salt and pepper. Fold in the avocado. Transfer to a serving bowl, then sprinkle with the remaining pumpkin seeds.





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This berry trifle is sure to be the star of your next summer celebration. **SHILPA USKOKOVIC/THEKITCHN.COM**

Summer showstopper

By Miro Uskokovic
TheKitchn.com

Cake, cream, fruit, maybe a shot or two of liqueur — what’s not to like about a trifle? They’re easier to put together than layer cakes, and the flavor possibilities are endless. I always feel trifles come into their own in the summer. So for this recipe, I chose a summery combination of sweet berries and simple vanilla pound cake with a rich, almost cheese-cake-like cream for a showstopping seasonal centerpiece.

Should you make a trifle a day

ahead?
I usually assemble trifles and keep them refrigerated for a minimum of two hours and up to 24 hours before serving. You want to allow some time for all of the layers and flavors to meld — especially for the cake to absorb those sticky berry juices before serving. After this period, the berries will start getting mushy and the cream will become stiff and dry.

Can you use frozen fruit in trifles?
Theoretically, you could, but it might get messy, and the texture of the fruit will suffer. When frozen berries defrost, they

release an excessive amount of liquid and get too soft. I strongly suggest you go for fresh berries.

Can I use something else besides the pound cake?
You can make this dessert in a snap by using trifle-friendly options like ladyfingers or even Nilla wafers (think banana pudding, which is practically a trifle) in place of pound cake. And no one will judge you or even know if you opt out of making your own pound cake and instead reach for your trusted friend, Sara Lee. (Man, that texture is hard to beat.)

BERRY TRIFLE

Makes: 12 servings
For the pound cake:
8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter
Cooking spray
1 cup granulated sugar
½ cup whole milk
½ cup sour cream
3 large eggs
2 tablespoons neutral vegetable oil, such as avocado or canola
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
2 cups all-purpose flour
For the vanilla cream:
2 (about 8-ounce) containers mascarpone cheese
¾ cup sour cream
1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
½ teaspoon kosher salt
2 ½ cups cold heavy cream
For the berries and serving:
3 pounds mixed fresh berries, such as blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and/or strawberries
1 large orange
¼ cup runny honey
3 tablespoons granulated sugar
3 tablespoons orange liqueur, such as Grand Marnier or Cointreau (optional)
Fresh edible marigolds or pansies (optional)
Make the cake:
1. Cut 8 tablespoons unsalted butter into 8 pieces and place in a small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high until just melted, 20 to 40 seconds. Set aside to cool slightly. Meanwhile, arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat the oven to 325 degrees. Line the bottom of an 8-½-by-4-½-inch loaf pan (2 ½ inches high) with parchment paper. Lightly coat the parchment paper and sides of the pan with cooking spray.
2. Place 1 cup granulated sugar, ½ cup whole milk, ½ cup sour cream, 3 large eggs, 2 tablespoons neutral oil, 1 tablespoon vanilla extract and 1 teaspoon kosher salt in a medium bowl and vigorously whisk by hand until combined and creamy, about 1 minute. While whisking constantly, slowly drizzle in the melted butter. Add 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder and whisk until combined, about 10 seconds. Add 2 cups all-purpose flour and whisk just until the flour is absorbed with no dry streaks or clumps remaining, about 30 seconds. Transfer to the pan and spread into an even layer.

3. Bake until the cake is golden brown, springs back when lightly pressed in the center, and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out mostly clean with just a few crumbs, 50 to 65 minutes.
4. Place the pan on a wire rack and let the cake cool for 15 minutes. Run an offset spatula or thin knife around the cake, then invert the cake onto the wire rack. Let cool completely.
Make the vanilla cream:
1. Place 2 (about 8-ounce) containers mascarpone cheese, ¾ cup sour cream, 1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk, 1 tablespoon vanilla extract, and ½ teaspoon kosher salt in the bowl of a stand mixer (or a large bowl if using an electric hand mixer). Beat with the whisk attachment on medium-high speed until just combined.
2. Add 2 ½ cups cold heavy cream and beat on low until combined. Increase the speed to medium-high and beat until thick and fluffy and soft peaks form, 3 to 6 minutes. Cover and refrigerate until ready to assemble the trifle.
Make the macerated berries:
1. Wash and dry 3 pounds mixed berries. If using strawberries, hull and cut in half if smaller or quarters if the fruit is larger. Cut bigger blackberries in half. You should have about 10 cups of fruit. Place in a large bowl.
2. Finely grate the zest of 1 large orange until you have 1 tablespoon. Juice the orange until you have ¼ cup.
3. Add the zest, juice, berries, ¼ cup honey, 3 tablespoons granulated sugar and 3 tablespoons orange liqueur to the berries and mix gently with a large spoon or spatula until combined. Set aside to macerate for 10 minutes.
Assemble the trifle:
1. Cut the cooled cake crosswise into ¾-inch-thick slices. Cut each slice into 4 pieces crosswise.
2. Transfer ¼ of the vanilla cream to a 9-inch trifle dish (14-cup capacity) or a large glass bowl and spread into an even layer. Arrange ¼ of the cake pieces on top of the cream in an even layer. Top with ¼ of the berries in an even layer.
3. Repeat layering the vanilla cream, cake and berries three more times. Garnish with fresh edible marigolds or pansies if desired. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to overnight before serving.
Mascarpone cream substitute: Mascarpone can be substituted with full-fat, room-temperature cream cheese.

Perfect dinner for any night

By Amelia Rampe
TheKitchn.com

Growing up in Southern California, I learned a thing or two about tacos. I grew up buying my carne asada from the carniceria because that’s where you went to buy the best. Now that I live on the East Coast, I rely on my taste memories to recreate the flavors that I miss. This steak marinade comes together in minutes and brings me back to the gatherings of my youth. I like to use flank steak



KELLI FOSTER/THEKITCHN.COM

for this steak taco recipe. It’s an inexpensive piece of protein that grills up nicely and has lots of flavor. After the chipotle salsa-citrus marinade, the steak grills up in minutes, making it easy for a weeknight.

STEAK TACOS

Makes: 8 tacos, 4 servings
For the steak:
1 to 2 large oranges
2 medium limes
4 cloves garlic
1 medium bunch fresh cilantro
1 (7 to 8-ounce) can or jar blended chipotle salsa (about 2 cups)
1 small red onion
1 ½ pounds flank steak
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
4 tablespoons canola or vegetable oil, divided
For the assembly:
8 (5- or 6-inch) flour or corn tortillas
½ cup avocado crema or sour cream
½ cup pico de gallo or salsa fresca
½ cup crumbled Cotija cheese
1. Prepare following ingredients, adding each to same 2-quart baking dish or large zip-top bag as it is completed: Using a vegetable peeler, remove peel from 1 large orange and 2 medium limes. Juice orange until you have ½ cup (juice second orange if needed). Juice limes until you have ¼ cup. Finely grate 4 garlic cloves. Coarsely chop the stems from 1 bunch cilantro until you have ½ cup. Add ½ cup chipotle salsa and stir to combine.
2. Slice 1 small red onion into thin rounds and add to the marinade. Add 1 ½ pounds flank steak and turn to coat. If marinating in the baking dish, pile some of the marinade and onions on the top of the steak; cover the baking dish with plastic. If marinating in the bag, press out the excess air and seal the bag. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour and up to 4 hours, flipping the steak halfway through.
3. Heat cast-iron grill pan or 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat for at least 5 minutes. Meanwhile, transfer onion rings

from marinade to one side of a plate or baking sheet. Transfer the steak to the other half of the plate; discard the remaining marinade. Brush off any aromatics that are stuck on the steak and onions. Season both sides of the steak with 2 teaspoons kosher salt and 1 teaspoon black pepper.
4. Drizzle 2 tablespoons of the canola oil into the pan. Add the onions and cook, stirring occasionally, until charred and tender, about 5 minutes. Push the onions to one side of the pan and place the steak on the other. Cook undisturbed until the bottom of the steak is dark golden brown and charred in spots, about 4 minutes. Transfer to a clean cutting board browned-side down.
5. Add remaining 2 tablespoons canola oil to pan. Return steak to pan browned-side up and sear undisturbed until desired doneness, an internal temperature of 128 degrees for medium-rare, 4 to 5 minutes, or 135 degrees for medium. Return to the cutting board and let rest about 10 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare the remaining ingredients.
6. Pick fresh cilantro leaves until you have ¼ cup. Warm 8 tortillas one at a time by holding them directly over a medium flame on a gas stove, or in a skillet over medium heat on an electric stove, flipping occasionally, until charred in spots and pliable. (Alternatively, wrap the stack of tortillas in a damp paper towel and microwave until warm, 20 to 25 seconds.) Stack together and wrap in a clean kitchen towel or aluminum foil to keep warm.
7. Cut the steak across the grain into ½-inch-thick slices. Cut any long slices of steak crosswise to fit into the tortillas.
8. To assemble a taco, spread 1 tablespoon crema or sour cream on a tortilla. Top with a few slices of steak, a few pieces of onion, 1 tablespoon pico de gallo or salsa fresca, 1 generous sprinkle of Cotija cheese and some cilantro leaves.

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

Cauliflower replaces potato in this French-style salad

By Diane Rossen Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

I am always surprised when a vegetable that so many dislike is suddenly one of the most important ingredients in dishes on restaurant menus across the country. Cauliflower became the vegetable “darling” in the culinary world a few years ago. It started with roasted cauliflower steaks, roasted cauliflower florets and, of course, cauliflower rice. When I grew up, cauliflower was boiled and served as is. Thank goodness chefs started roasting and grilling this vegetable. Each of these techniques brings out its caramelized, rich flavor. You can use these roasted golden cauliflower gems as an add-in to tacos, pita pockets and salads or as a snack. Here, cauliflower replaces potatoes in a lively summer salad.
Roasting the florets until they are golden and slightly sweet creates the foundation for this salad. Make sure to cut the cauliflower into small, even-sized florets.



Roasting the florets until they are golden creates the foundation for this salad. **DIANE ROSSEN WORTHINGTON/TNS**

ROASTED CAULIFLOWER SALAD NICOISE

Makes: 4 servings
1 large cauliflower
3 tablespoons olive oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup coarsely chopped pitted olives
2 tablespoons finely chopped sun-dried tomatoes in oil
2 tablespoons finely chopped Italian parsley
2 tablespoons finely chopped basil
2 tablespoons finely chopped chives
For the dressing:
1 clove minced garlic
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
6 tablespoons olive oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons Greek yogurt
1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.
2. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper.

Cut the cauliflower into bite-sized pieces and transfer to the sheet pan. Drizzle the olive oil over the florets, and toss until evenly coated. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Roast the cauliflower for 25 to 30 minutes, tossing once to evenly brown, or until just cooked through and golden brown. Remove from oven and let come to room temperature.
4. While cauliflower is roasting, make the dressing: Combine all the ingredients in a small bowl and whisk until completely blended. Taste for seasoning.
5. In a serving bowl combine the cooled cauliflower, olives, sun-dried tomatoes, parsley, basil and chives. Drizzle enough of the dressing over the ingredients and mix until coated. Taste for seasoning. Chill in the refrigerator. When chilled, serve.
Recipe note: If you have any dressing leftover, refrigerate until using since it includes yogurt.